Winter graces Horseshoe Falls

Each summer mobs of tourists jam together to marvel at Niagara Falls. But the Falls don't reach their pinnacle of beauty until the frosty chill of winter sets in, as photographed here on a chilly December morning. (Photo by Mason)

Niagara News

Vol. 7, No. 6 | Published by Journalism-Print Program | Dec. 15, 1976

SAC furnace blew, secretary burned

By KAREN MONCK

Debbie Coplen, Student Administrative Council (SAC) secretary, received severe burns while she was trying to light the pilot light in the propane furnace in the SAC trailer Dec. 6.

Debbie Cole, SAC vice-president of finance, said at a closed SAC board of directors meeting Dec. 7 that Ms Coplen received burns to her hands and face when she attempted to light the furnace.

Adam Macsai, SAC president, said SAC has had problems with the furnace since its installation to replace an old furnace shortly before the accident. He said SAC had "a mechanic in every single day to fix it."

Adam said he told Ms Coplen that if anything went wrong with the furnace she should call maintenance and they would come to fix it. He said she should not have been "tampering with the furnace."

Eugene Lampman, SAC club convener, said workmen who came in to fix the furnace had "apparently showed her how to light it (the pilot light) and told her to try it before she called."

The incident was brought out when Debbie said that something should be done for Ms Coplen by SAC since she was not covered by workmen's compensation. Debbie said SAC does not have workmen's compensation insurance because it has only one employee.

The board passed a recommendation to pay Ms Coplen for the two weeks left until the end of term and to give her one week's vacation pay for the holiday according to her contract.

The money will be taken from funds set aside for Ms Coplen's salary.

The board also passed a motion to send her flowers.

No damage was caused to the trailer, John Thibodeau, vice-president of internal affairs, said.

Debbie fine

Debbie Coplen, SAC secretary, said from her St. Catharines home Dec. 9 that she will be returning to work after the Christmas break.

Ms Coplen said she received second degree burns to her hands and scorched her face when she tried to light the furnace in the SAC trailer Dec. 6.

SAC losing money on Christmas formal

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) will lose a large amount of money because only 150 tickets were sold for the winter formal.

Guido Rapone, SAC executive vice-president, said only about 50 tickets had been sold by Dec.2. SAC extended the deadline for tickets from Dec.1 until Dec.7.

Mr. Rapone said the formal still will have to take place Dec.17 because the arrangements were already made.

"We'll have to take the loss," he said. "We've booked the hall, which cost a lot of money,we've booked the band and we're committed."

SAC has done everything it can think of to get the students interested in the formal, he said. "I don't understand what we're doing wrong." Announcements over CKNC and the college public address system and 100 posters advertising the formal or the College Queen nominations have been used,he said.

"The only reason that I can see is the students' ignorance," he said when asked why the students showed a lack of interest in the event.

A total of 450 tickets had to be sold to break even. The 50 tickets sold by Dec. 2 would total only $1,000 which Mr. Rapone said wouldn't cover much of the cost. He said Spartan, the band, is costing SAC $1,500 for playing the one night stand.

See FORMAL Page 12

Early registration a success, shorter line-ups, less rush

About 1,700 students passed through a small room in the Lundy Building last week in Niagara's first early registration. The system was "a definite success," and eliminated the long line-ups of other years, according to John Parrett, assistant registrar.

"Students didn't have to be hustled through registration," Mr. Parrett said. "There was no big rush and the people involved had more time to think." Previously students have registered at the beginning of term and the result has been extensive line-ups.

Between 400 ad 500 students registered on the first three days last week, but these students did not choose electives.

The only line-up at registration this term occurred Monday morning. "About 600 students registered on Monday because these students were choosing electives and they wanted to get first choice," Mr. Parrett said. On Monday, five electives were filled up.

"If they came early to choose electives, they were smart," Mr. Parrett said. "Some students definitely skipped their classes on Monday morning. The first three classes that morning were really affected."

About 95 per cent of horticultural and nursing students registered by mail on Dec. 8.

Mr. Parrett had anticipated problems such as students who did not have enough money, or who did not know their marks, but there were few problems. If any do arise with timetabling, they can be settled in January.

Mr. Parrett expects about 20 per cent of the student body to register late because that has been the pattern of previous years.

College TV goes on Cable 8 in January

Live coverage for NC basketball

Niagara's basketball games might be televised live in January.

An agreement between the college and the community cable stations is before the college board for discussion, Graham McKinnon, director of college services, said.

"If it (the agreement) gets approved, Maclean-Hunter and Armstrong will jointly fund the college" with technical equipment, he said. There will be no additional costs to the college.

Basketball and hockey games are usually video taped and shown at a later time.

Cable television is "another opportunity for Radio and Television (RTV) students to receive another facet" of communications work, Mr. McKinnon said.

Discussions for cable television were originally held several years ago, but technical and financial problems stopped the discussions. There were further meetings, but nothing came out of them until now, Mr. McKinnon said.

The proposed agreement will allow RTV to "transmit on cable for a weekly basis."

Keith Lindberg, co-ordinator for Radio and Television Services, said Niagara College would cover the Niagara Falls Blossom Festival parade as well as basketball games.

Decennial in spotlight on special program

Niagara College and its decennial will be previewed on cable television, Keith Lindberg, co-ordinator of Radio and Television Services, said.

A proposed agreement between Niagara College and two area cable stations, McLean-Hunter and Armstrong, is before the college board for discussion.

A special show on instructional television will be shown on Jan. 10, 1977. Members of the board, deans and the press will be invited to the show, Mr. Lindberg said.

The show will be split into three parts. The first part will be on Niagara College, the second on its decennial and the third will preview programs that will be shown through January to May.

The show will run from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Instructional television is a separate department from Radio and Television. It is designed for staff and community, but RTV students are hired to work on the shows.

EDITORIAL

Thumbs up to SAC

Criticism seems to be the only response aimed in the direction of Niagara's Student Administrative Council(SAC).

And it's not just this year's SAC that has been subjected to this "thumbs down or nothing" attitude.

Criticism of the 1975 SAC mounted to such a height that 500 names were collected on a petition to oust the entire SAC executive. And suggestions were made to dissolve the council completely.

It's only natural, of course, for a governing body to be under constant criticism because in representing its people, it must make decisions on its own. And the decisions arrived at by one group of administrators are not going to meet the approval of all the governed perhaps, and at times the majority, but never all.

But there's at least one area this year in which the blame must rest squarely on the students.

SAC made a decision and carried out an action that would do nothing but benefit the students and faculty of Niagara -- an action that could not possibly invite any form of criticism.

A Christmas formal dinner-dance is being held along with a college queen pageant -- only for the benefit of the students.

The response has been ridiculously scant.

The day before entry deadline for the queen pageant, only five nominations had been submitted to SAC -- and only two of these from the main campus.

This is hardly proportionate to Niagara's population of about 2,600.

And fewer than 200 tickets were sold for the Christmas formal, half of them on the satellite campuses. Most of those sold on the main campus were bought by faculty members.

SAC needed to sell at least 450 tickets just to break even. The council is forced to take an immense loss because of the lack of participation -- and for what? The answer is simple.

SAC made the mistake of trying to show Niagara students a good time. Its only fault in doing this is that it failed to remember that apathy abounds in Niagara, particularly on the main campus.

If the lack of response to SAC attempts at benefitting the students was due to strong disapproval of formals and queen pageants, the decision to "pass" would be justified.

No one is obligated to become involved in something he does not approve of or believe in. But it is not likely that the hundreds of students who declined to participate in either the formal or the pageant object this strongly to these functions.

More likely, there is just a lack of any type of college spirit or interest. It may sound repititious to again mention apathy (the word "apathy" has probably been printed in the News over the years more than "college") but this is only because the apathy itself seems to be repetitious.

Thumbs down may be shown for some things SAC has done, but this time, the gesture should be awarded students for what they have not done.

Don Loucks

Merry Christmas

from the staff of the Niagara News

Niagara News

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Editor: Don Loucks Assoc. Editor: Sheldon Curran

Staff: Denny Bunyan, Marnie Clement, Ric Dolphin, Paul Kreamer, Tim Mason, Angus Middlemiss, Karen Monck, Nelle Oosterom, Chris Paxton, Gudrun Schatzler, Lynne Van Tilborg, Phil Wilson, and first year journalism students.

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Staff: Cindy Dalton, Mary Ellen Davis, Joan Fast, Barbara Hardy, Donna Larone, Vicky-Lynn Legge, Marylin Lockhart, Denise MacDonald, Mari McIntyre, Kathy Meady, Karen Robins, Linda Thompson, Karen Walker.

Editorial consultant: Austin Jelbert, program co-ordinator.
Advisers: Mrs. Barbara Blue, Journalism; Mrs. Josie McGovern, photography; Mrs. Eileen Muir, advertising.

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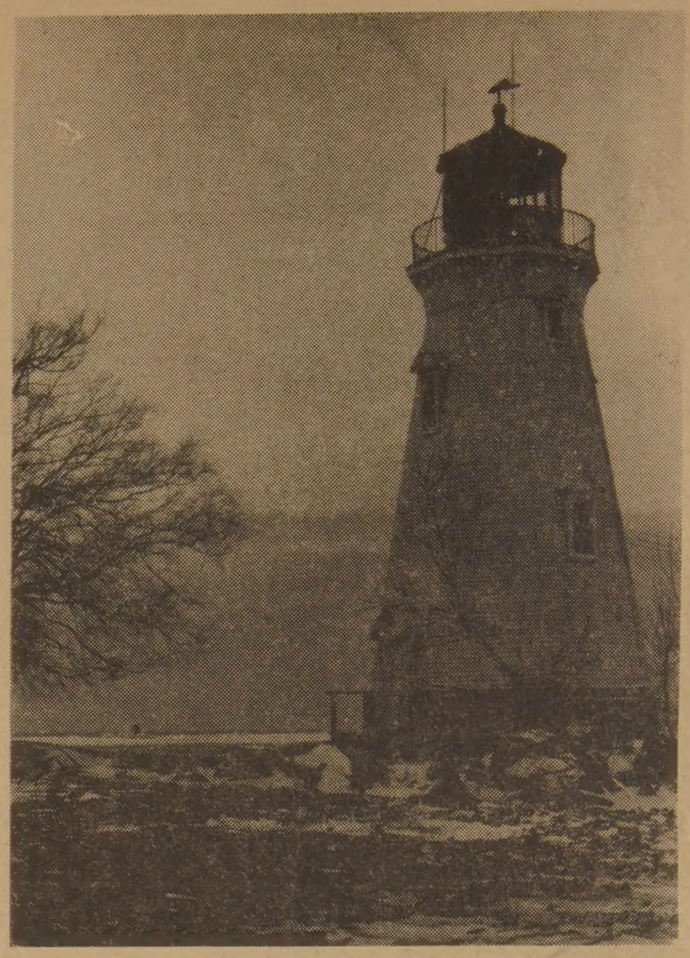


Silent wintery watch (Photo by Bunyan)

LETTERS

Dear Friends:

I wish to send most sincere thanks to everyone who sent flowers, contributed to the Heart Fund and helped me in any way through this very difficult time.

Perhaps you could find space in the newspaper to print a quotation, from the letter of a friend, which says all that needs to be said about my dear husband.

"Many years ago when we were very young and both idealistic, our efforts were pooled to the end that we could accomplish great things for our fellow man.

Ron was a man of the times who had a great insight into the needs and aspirations of people. Indeed I have seldom met one who so exemplified the great traits he possessed in such abundance. Where he was there was life and joy, hope and expectation. All the things of which great dreams and ideals of the world are made. It will be said of all those who knew him that in his quiet, sincere and selfless way he won the respect in the minds of his friends, that is given to few. Long after he is gone there will be those who will remember with a glow of pleasure the feeling of hope he engendered in their hearts. Some better known figures will leave only footprints in the changing sands of time, but Ron will be remembered for the genuinely good man he was."

Thank you all so very much,
Joan Rewbury
for Elaine and Howard.

Bassi defends stand

The purpose of this letter is to let people know my personal feelings in the matter of Valerie Thompson and Men's Intramural Hockey.

I feel that my decision in this situation was and is right. The Men's Intramural Program has been a success each year; the play for its calibre can be rough and fast; some shots are very hard. The introduction of a woman to the sport competing against men does therefore suggest rule changes. No matter what anyone says, body contact or the injury aspect pertains to goalies as well as other players. The protection of all intramural hockey players is my business. I do not take this task lightly. The physical confrontation between men and women is not sport; it is dangerous, especially when strength becomes a factor involving sticks and pucks and people. I feel, as a physical educator, that I have a responsibility to all concerned to keep the sport segregated.

It must be nice to sit and judge a person without confronting him. It must also be nice to make a judgment on a situation that could cause injury to someone and not to have to take the responsibility afterward.

I stick by my decision—I feel that it is right.

Sincerely,
Fred Bassi
Athletic Assistant

Crossroads, yes

Dear Editor:

In response to Tim Mason's article "Centuries of frustration responsible for PQ win, (Dec. 1)", I would like to congratulate him on his research, but I would also like to say that sure Quebec reached a crossroad but my native province will stay in the confederation longer than any other province in our country. Too many Canadians were looking at the separatism issue instead of looking at Mr. Levesque's point of view on how to establish a better government in Quebec. Mr Bourassa put the province on a steady downhill course so the people turned to an intelligent man to put them back on the right track, not to separate, but because he was the best man the province had. A referendum will indeed take place, but I think that even Mr. Levesque feels Quebec will not separate. A crossroad yes, but not for the worst.

Yours sincerely
Daniel Levesque
2nd Year Law and Security

BULLPIT

Dear Santa: it's time for a change

Dear Santa:

I am writing you, just like everyone else, to ask you for my Christmas present. I know you must be swamped with all kinds of mail from all over asking you for toys, hairdriers, Cadillacs with a year's supply of gas, and real-live centrefold girls. But I want to ask you for something a little bit different.

I want my present to be given to a special group of people with a common problem. Some of these people suffer terribly and become depressed this time of year. **I was wondering if you could change Christmas this year from Dec. 25 to June or July.**

You see, Santa, there are two big days for everyone—their birthdays and Christmas day. Why should a fluke of nature do a few people out of their birthdays?

Do you know what it feels like to grow up never having a birthday party because your friends can't come? And what would you think of being told that due to the cost, your Christmas present is also your birthday present? Some of us feel like losers and my definition of a loser is a person whose parents forget to wish their child a happy birthday. This type of prejudicial treatment is unfair.

Throughout the years, people born on Christmas have been *shown nothing but prejudice. I* once read somewhere that in a European country children born on Christmas day were put to death because they were thought to be vampires or werewolves.

Having been in this position for 23 years, I consider myself an expert on the feelings of people suffering from this affliction. The lack of such childhood activities, such as birthday parties, can be detrimental to a child's mind. He can end up with a number of personality problems, including a persecution complex.

I have two pet peeves which I must let you in on—being called a Christmas baby and the people who sarcastically say, "Ah poor kid, you must feel ripped off." Of course I do.

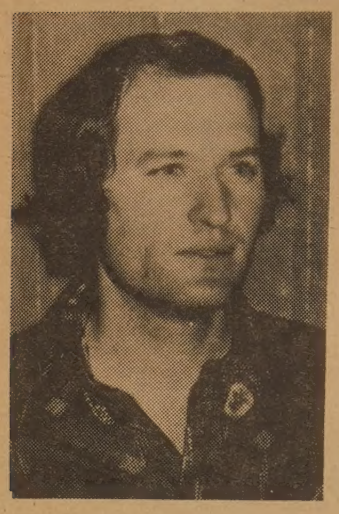
Santa, you've got to change the date so we can have a little bit of respect and recognition from our fellow beings. So please inform the world of the change and, if you can't take your reindeer out in the summer, I'm sure Air Canada or some other airline would be happy to take you. Thank you very much.

Your friend,
Angus

ROVING REPORTER

By RIC DOLPHIN and TIM MASON

"How does the possibility of Quebec separating make you feel?"



Mal Foster, second year general business; I wouldn't like it. I don't think this separatist movement is as big as everyone says it is."

Mrs. M.E. Patterson, students award officer; "Disturbed. I'm not happy at the possibility that Quebec might separate. This is a federal system and one would hope Quebec would remain a part of that system."

Mme. Donna Lanthier, first year Educational Resource Technician: "Je prefere un Canada tout avec les Quebecois parce qu'il est bien pour l'anglais."

Jane Henderson, third year radio and television: "I think it would be disasterous."

Mike Danchyshtn, third year radio and television: "French culture has been a part of Canada for so long it would be a shame to lose it because of this."

Mary Jo Furgal, first year human relations: "They won't be able to stand economically by themselves."

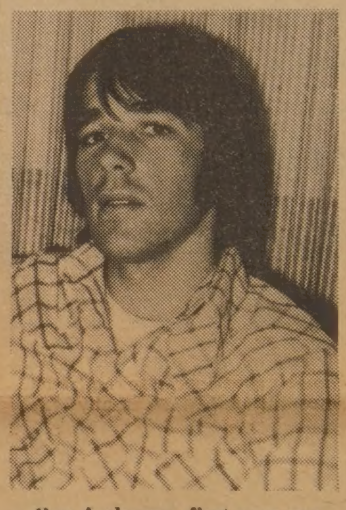
Joe Harb, second year accounting; "Let them have it."

Greg Sheehan, first year electronics: "If they do it will screw up the value of the Canadian dollar because of the lack of confidence American brokers will have."

Lorraine Musie, first year health school prepartory option: "I don't think they'll separate."

Margaret Matyus, library technician: "I wouldn't like Quebec separating. I don't think it would be a good idea."

Kathy Sones, first year fashion arts: "I don't think they should separate because it's not good for the country's morale. We need them too much."



Ron Anderson, first year general college: "I think the problems that there are in Canada won't be solved by Quebec separating. Their separating would just hurt the Canadian economy."

CANADIANA: Canadian Christmas

By CHRIS PAXTON

Of all customs practised at Christmas by Canadians not one is of Canadian origin. The tree goes up, it is decorated, the stockings are hung, the presents are opened and the turkey is served.

Such is the Canadian Christmas, steeped in tradition. But whose? Many traditions come from Germanic countries but the French and English also introduced many customs from their homelands, particularly Normandy. The messe de minuit or midnight mass after which was held the reveillon de Noel which was a large feast. The menu included meat pie, meat balls, fowl, suet pudding, pies and doughnuts. After the feast, dancing and games went on until dawn.

Presents were exchanged on New Year's Day and the children learned of Pere Noel or Father Christmas. The children were told that he was a messenger who brought presents from the Christ child.

After the conquest of New France, the British colonists began to introduce British customs. They celebrated Christmas with a huge dinner which included fowl, beef, plum pudding and mince pie. The dinner developed into a large feast about the middle of the 19th century. A typical meal then would be oyster soup, roast turkey, cranberry sauce, mashed and browned potatoes, onions in cream sauce, tomatoes, chicken pie, rice croquettes, plum pudding, foaming sauce, mince pie, lemon tarts, salted almonds, celery, crackers and cheese, fruit and coffee.

The houses were decorated with greenery of various kinds. Christmas Eve was a time for visiting and drinking. Christmas day was reserved for family reunions, exchanging of gifts, and outdoor sports activities.

Under the reign of Queen Victoria, many customs from Germany were introduced. These included hanging of children's stockings, sending Christmas cards and decorating a Christmas tree. Most prominent of these was Santa Clause, derived from St. Nicholas, the German saint of Christmas.

FOR VISITING

Christmas day was the day for visiting. Here, as always in the 19th century, strict protocol was observed. A gentleman was to leave a calling card but never include it on any season's greetings. The removal of coats and gloves was optional. If a gentleman was introduced to a lady, he was not to presume upon that introduction for further social acquaintance.

During the visits which began about 9 a.m. and continued to 10 p.m., refreshments were served. These included raw and scalloped oysters, cold meats, salads, fruits, rich cakes, sandwiches, hot tea and coffee. Women used to compete to see who would receive the most calling cards.

Later in the 19th century, children's Christmas concerts at schools and churches became popular. Shooting matches were held and the one who could shoot the most pigeons won a turkey.

New Year's Eve for the mid-19th century Canadians was dedicated to dancing except for the Wesleyan Methodists who prayed out the old year and prayed in the new.

Our Christmas today is very much like that of the past but in other ways it is different. Many customs remain, however, which make up our Christmas season.

OPUS
Lincoln Plaza
300 Lincoln E.

Christmas special for Niagara College Students!

Wrangler jeans regularly $19.99 are ONLY $16.99 with your Student Card. A great gift or a terrific start on your '77 college wardrobe.

Mon. — Fri. 9:30 to 9:00
Sat. 9:30 to 6:00

The Christmas Place

. MET Dept. Store
. Dominion Food Store
. Ruttle's Pharmacy

FASHION & GIFTS

. Kevin James Shoes — latest styles
. OPUS — Levis, Lees, GWGs and suits and dresses for the young at heart
. Garant Brothers — The Shop for Men
. The Wool Shop. Excel-T Custom Sweat Shirts and T-shirts. Patternicks

ENTERTAINMENT

. Audet Music Centre — Wurlitzer Organs Gibson Guitars and Music Books.
. Niagara Audio. Fun'NGames Arcade

RESTAURANTS

. H. Salt. Pizza Delight. Cafe Met

PETS

. Lacombe's Pet Supplies — largest in Peninsula

SERVICES

. Rocca's Unisex Hairstyling. Model Beauty Salon
. Shell-Dominion Gas Bar (save 5% in food coupons)
. Scotia Bank. Fotomat. Caisse Populaire. Cholkan Real Estate

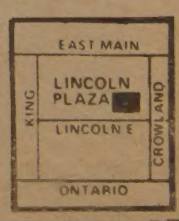
HARDWARE & HOME

. Rio Lumber and Home Centre (Welland's largest)
. Peninsula Decor Wallpaper & Mirror
. Pat's Appliances

Bus stops at our centre.

LINCOLN PLAZA

300 Lincoln St. East
Welland, Ontario.



•••by any other name WOMEN'S WOES WITH WORDS

By LYNNE VANTILBORG

It was with a sigh of accomplishment and relief that Gail Hilyer heard the Board of Governors give its approval to the Affirmative Action Plan—which is to provide more opportunity for women in the community colleges. Ms Hilyer, women's adviser to the president, and the staff committee on the status of women have been working on the plan since early June.

The plan has been through many revisions and was finally ready for submission to the ministry of colleges and universities. But was it?

Ms Hilyer felt a bit of apprehension as the plan was so easily accepted by the board. Her apprehension was shared by board member Mrs. M. E. Lancaster, chairman of the staff committee. The problem was brought before the staff committee at its Dec. 7 meeting.

It was item 9. The board had changed the wording of three other proposals to make the college commitment to affirmative action more definite. This made item 9 seem ineffectual.

THE STORY BEGINS...

Item 9 began its life as item 16 in Draft One of the plan. The wording was:

"A specific attempt will be made to create 'bridge' positions to reduce the number of dead-end jobs and to allow individuals to transfer skills, knowledge, and experience to another position, with appropriate financial recognition."

By the third draft of the report, item 16 had been re-named item 9 and was without the phrase "to reduce the number of dead-end jobs" and the word individual had been changed to women.

This is how the wording of item 9 (formerly 16)) stood when it came before the personnel committee in late November.

The personnel committee looked at the financial aspect of implementing item 9 and decided the wording would have to be changed.

Item 16 could no longer recognize itself in re-worked item 9. The new wording was:

"The feasibility of restructuring certain positions to allow a transfer of skills, knowledge and experience will be explored."

...AND CONTINUES

So item 9 (formerly 16) had been virtually deleted from the Affirmative Action Plan when it came before the board Nov. 25.

Ms Hilyer was opposed to the deletion. She had four reasons:

1. The wording of item 9 had been supported by the committee.

2. A bridge position did not necessarily refer to a management position as such.

3. Affirmative Action does require financial commitment.

4. Bridge positions could be identified as training experience.

She brought her reasons before the committee. They agreed the re-wording of item 9 was very weak. They also saw that, while the word feasibility was a weak term, the phrase "bridge position" was a vague one. How would they redefine the concept to please everyone?

...AND CONCLUDES

Mrs. Lancaster will "try" this latest and "final" revision of item 9 (formerly item 16) at the next meeting of the executive committee of the Board of Governors.

The wording this time?

"The college will restructure certain positions where possible to allow women to gain additional skills, knowledge and experience that will prepare them for other positions within the college."

Which proves a compromise is better than a defeat and if you do it well enough, it can almost be a victory.

Christmas traditions

By HEATHER REID

Christmas comes but once a year in Bermuda, Trinidad and Nigeria, but twice to Holland.

Some foreign students at Niagara discussed with the Niagara News their various Christmas customs—ranging from goat for Christmas dinner to the singing of parangs.

Dutch customs were described by Marcus Hagesteijn, a survey technician student. And, of course, full Christmas celebrations follow on Dec. 25.

Antelope or goat may be on the Christmas dinner menu in Nigeria, along with wheat, rice and yams, said Henry Enyenihi, human relations student.

In Trinidad,Thanksgiving and Christmas are celebrated together and it's easy to put on 10 pounds at one sitting, Michele Lee-Lung, bilingual secretary student, said. Dinner consists of turkey, ham, por, chicken, cranberry sauce, potato salad and pastels (a type of meat pie).

A candy made from the meat of the grapefruit and drinks like Ponche Creme and ginger-beer are also served, Michele said.

Farine and Casaba pie and pudding with liquor in it are dessert favorites in Bermuda, Patricia Lightbourne, Early Childhood Education student, said.

The Star of Bethlehem and wreaths hang from the doors in Holland and pine tree branches hang on the walls inside, said Marcus. The main street in Trinidad is closed off and a beautifully decorated Christmas tree stands in the centre of the street, Michele said.

In Trinidad Christmas carols are called parangs and the carolers are known as serenaders, Michele said. In Nigeria the carloers sing all through the night, Henry said.

On Boxing Day in Bermuda the people send fruit and vegtables to the less fortunate,Patricia, said.

Contributions recognized at N/C decennial dinner

By LYNNE VANTILBORG

The past, the present and the future were honored at the 10th anniversary dinner of Niagara College held Nov. 23.

This was 10 years less two days from the date of the first N/C board of governors meeting held Nov. 25, 1966.

More than 60 persons gathered to honor those who "started with nothing and built something fine." The tribute was part of a telegram from past board member Mrs. Rupert Buchanan who was unable to attend the dinner.

The high point of the evening almost didn't occur. Commemorative scrolls were to be presented to past board members in recognition of their contributions to the college.

The dinner ran into the time scheduled for that evening's board meeting. W.H Burton, present chairman of the board, ended the evening, thanked everyone and then realized the scrolls had not yet been presented.

Scrolls were presented to Paul Forestell, past chairman of the board; Ivan Buchanan, past vice-chairman; and former board members F.P. Downey, Dr. D.H. MacDonald, Allan Pietz, M.F. Pummel, R.T. Sawle and Andrew Sharp.

Mr. Forestell welcomed Niagara's first employee who "is still with us." Mary Hornak, secretary to the college president and both boards of governors, began working at Niagara in December 1966.

A "man instrumental in explaining the college to the community" was the second person hired by the board. Mr. Burton said of the man responsible for the interim administration of the college, "Niagara College owes a great deal of gratitude to Mr. Fred Harvie."

Two other groups of people were recognized. Former Student Administrative Council presidents, Larry Lannigan and Harry Popiluk Jr., both students during the first year of the college, attended the dinner.

Heather Kilty was doubly honored as a present board member and as the student to achieve the highest academic standing in the history of the college. Ms Kilty was an applied arts student in the first year of the college. She works with the Addiction Research Foundation.

Three members of the college's advisory committees attended the dinner. Mike Zuberec, Dr. E.C.P. Henderson and George Shepherd were recognized for their help with the Survey Technician program, Health Sciences and Marketing Management.

Manera gets directory

(Photo by Curran)

Sales of the student directory are doing well on the main campus of Niagara College according to Larry Cote, co-ordinator of business marketing.

"The off-campus sales for the directory are doing very poorly because the students do not feel part of the college," Mr. Cote said.

About 800 copies of the directory were published and they are selling through out the college for 95 cents.

Miss, Mrs., Ms use 'Sweet Reason'

Sweet Reason hasn't anything to say that hasn't been said before. But then, who cares?

The show, a musical revue on women's liberation, is really the same old story about the women's movement—demands for equal rights, complaints about being sex objects and so on and so forth.

Even though it is the same old story, it's still the most enjoyable show on stage.

Press Theatre brought Sweet Reason to the Niagara peninsula for the second time and, with it, the two original cast members, Barbara Hamilton and Sandra O'Neill.

Sweet Reason had its first performance—under another name—in 1975 in the Hamilton Room, Niagara College. It then went on to be a success and to become the longest running show in Canada.

The musical is a series of sketches and songs that Miss O'Neill thought up and produced.

VERSATILE PERFORMERS

Both Miss O'Neill and Miss Hamilton (or should it be ms) are versatile performers and proved it in the various skits and songs.

Sweet Reason involved a display of emotions and both performers did an excellent job in those displays. But what made it more enjoyable was that both performers had different ways of showing their feelings.

Miss O'Neill used her voice. She was vibrant, conceited, sexy and sad, just through her voice. She was especially good in her song about the blues.

Miss Hamilton's facial expressions told stories. She was fantastic in every role she assumed, simply because she knew how to look in particular situations.

PERFORMERS' ATTITUDE

Probably the biggest reason why Sweet Reason is so enjoyable is the attitude of the performers. They were just not performing. They were having a good time and that, in turn, guarantees the audience will have a good time.

The set consisted of the curtain, two dividers and four boxes. This lack of scenery, however, did not hinder the show. Instead, it gave the stage to Miss O'Neill and Miss Hamilton, allowing them the full appreciation of the audience.

Stephen Woodjetts accompanied the two performers on the piano. His playing was good, but it lacked feeling. But that put more of the spotlight on the two performers.

With performers like Miss O'Neill and Miss Hamilton and a script like Sweet Reason, it is easy to see why Sweet Reason is the longest running show in Canada.

N/C plaza finally opens

Classes have begun in the Rainbow Bridge Plaza, Niagara College's new facility in Niagara Falls for Hotel and Restaurant students.

Plagued by soaring construction costs, classes were to have started in the new development on Oct. 4.

Students were bused from Niagara Falls to the Wellandvale campus for classes until the Plaza was available.

TRENDS:

Booze and organic drugs have taken over from hard drugs among the youth of today

Pot and beer seem to be the "tools" of partying for today's youth—"acid heads" and "mescaline minds" have had their day.

It may be that former users of chemical drugs want to become more socially acceptable or they might just be calming down and taking it easy with their partying.

Whatever the reason may be, the trend of using mind-bending chemical drugs to obtain a "high" appears to have faded away.

Ralph Greenfield, social sciences co-ordinator at Niagara, siad the change in drug trends is visible to him. He said that aside from alcohol, the use of cannabis and hashish is predominant among today's youth.

Bruce Tallon, guidance counsellor at Niagara, said he sees a definite decline in the use of drugs in general, but he said there has not been much of a change in the use of cannabis and hashish.

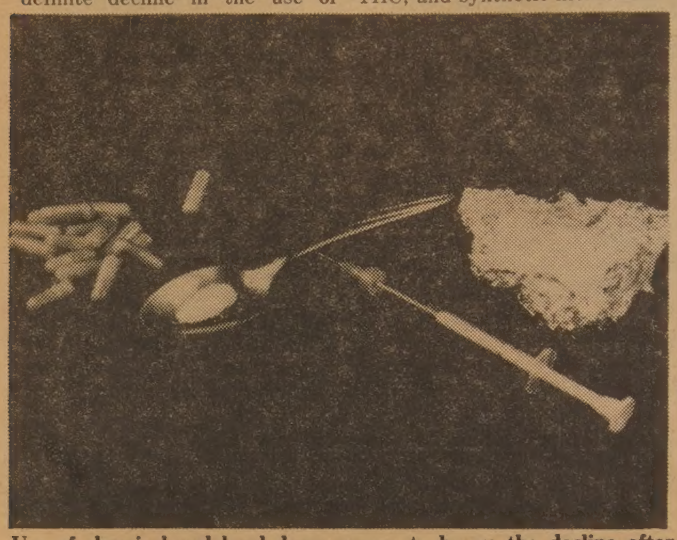
Mr. Tallon has been involved with research into drug abuse, specifically alcoholism. He said he believes the use of organic drugs is on an equal basis with the consumption of alcohol among today's youth.

BIG DECREASE

Both men agreed that on campus, at parties and on the streets, there is a noticeable decrease in the use of non-addictive chemical drugs.

This is in contrast to the late '60s and early '70s when young people were using "party" drugs to reach a state of euphoria.

Chemical drugs include types commonly known as acid, MDA. THC, and synthetic mescaline.



Use of chemical and hard drugs seems to be on the decline after reaching its peak in the '60s.

"It seems the youth are sticking to pot and beer when they're at a party," Mr. Greenfield said.

"Ten years ago, you would find a variety of drugs at a party, but the acid head seems to be left out now."

Both Mr. Tallon and Mr. Greenfield attrubute the decline in the use of chemical drugs to a social pressure facing the users. tends to drift on a highly personal experience and his "stone" becomes more of an individual thing because of this.

A chemical "stone" is not as sociable as smoking cannabis or hashish, they said. The chemical user, while he may be among others when taking the drug,

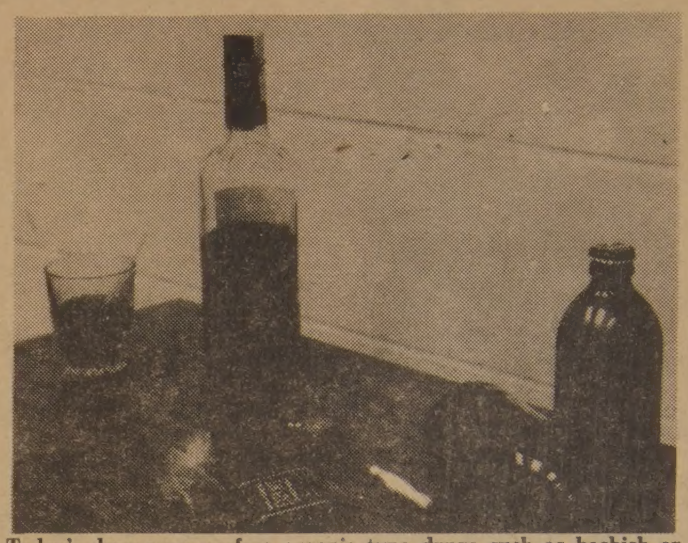
Like the use of alcohol, smoking cannabis and hashish is a highly sociable form of partying, Mr. Tallon said. He said the youth are taking the sociable route in obtaining a high because there is a strong tendency to want to be normal in society.

But this does not completely solve the mystery of the change in partying trends.

The question still arises; why have the youth chosen the sociable drugs now rather than the personal drugs of five or six years ago.

WANT TO CALM DOWN

Mr. Tallon suggested that the youth who used chemical drugs in the past want to calm down and take it easy now and are looking for a milder form of partying. Mr. Breenfield said the youth want the high obtained from the use of drugs but, at the same time, no longer want to face the danger that can be involved with chemical drugs.



Today's drug user prefers organic type drugs such as hashish or cannabis. Alcohol, both liquor and beer, is one of the most, if not the most, popular drug in use today. (Photo by Loucks)

Some former users of chemical drugs said they are satisfied with the fact that they have experienced the effects of these drugs and no longer need or want the same experience.

Mr. Tallon said the use of chemical drugs is a learning experience for the user.

"You have to learn how to handle the effects of the drug and the way you do handle your 'stone' is in the eyes of those around you," he said.

Mr. Tallon said this could have something to do with the decline of chemical drug use.

He said it is possible that the youth are not doing the drugs that involve a lot of handling because they don't want the insecurity of looking foolish in front ot their peers when they are unable to handle the drug's effect.

The paranoia that sometimes comes with the use of these drugs could be a reason for the youth getting away from chemical drugs, he siad.

Mr. Tallon said on the other side of the coin, a former user of these drugs may have reached the point where he was learning to handle the drug's effects with too much skill.

This could make the user realize how involved he is in the drug and urge him to stop using it as a tool of partying.

RECOVERING

Brian Green, English instructor, is recuperating in hospital after surgery to remove damaged cartilage from his right knee.

NC faculty and families Cuba-bound

An educational experience-holiday in Cuba over the Christmas holidays will be attended by seven Niagara College staff members.

Fourteen persons, including some family of staff members, will leave Dec. 27 to spend one week on the Caribbean island.

Proposed visits during the trip include Havana University, Havana Technical Institute, Hemingway Museum, a production centre, teachers' college, hospital or health service facilities and an optional 30 other tours.

A maximum of three days educational leave of absence with pay will be granted to participants. Each will present a brief written report to his chairman within one month of return and may be asked to report orally to other faculty.

Participants are completely responsible for all expenses incurred.

The off-campus educational experience was originally requested by the Faculty Professional Development Committee, which was later dissolved due to financial restraints. The project was then taken on by Robert Calladine, math instructor.

Florida, Cuba, Aruba, the Cayman Islands and the Dominican Republic were considered, but Cuba was decided upon as the best educational bargain.

The income tax department has been asking for a ruling on whether part or all of the cost be declared an educational expense.

CARMEN HEMMDR

ROBIN CROOKS

FASHIONS:

Vests, tunics and blazers important fashion news

By NELLE OOSTEROM

All eyes were on the attractive models who swirled across the stage to soft music and shimmering spot lights. It wasn't Paris, London or New York, but Niagara College's Hamilton Room and fashion arts students were displaying their latest creations.

The fashion show, by first and second year students was held Dec. 7. A preview for students and college personnel was held Nov. 30.

This year's theme was The Total Woman, and featured original designs in everything from loungewear to evening dresses.

The commentary was done by Barb Hardy and Karen Robins, second year students.

Shades of black, green and red dominated the color scene while vests, tunics and blazers made important fashion news. The man tailored suit appeared frequently and skirts enjoyed a lively revival. Multiculturalism put a definite imprint on the first year designs.

SHOW HIGHLIGHT

Highlight of the show was a strapless emerald green dress designed by student Mari McIntyre. Several of Mari's creations, which she designed for Molyclaire's Ltd. of Montreal,

JOAN HECKMAN

were displayed. She was placed at Molyclaire's for the summer and was among two other students, Joan Fast and Donna Larone, who were sponsored by Fashion Canada for a 12-week Industry and Training Program.

The blanket coat is the season's newest cover-up. Cindy Dalton created an innovative variation of it by making one out of a Hudson's Bay blanket, worn with pants tucked into Western or Fry boots.

Man tailored suits have become important essentials to the business woman. The three-piece outfits are well-cut and have become as popular to the no-nonsense woman as they are to the male world.

Tunics cropped up frequently and indicate a significant trend. They were usually knee-length, worn over pants, with slits down the sides.

An ever-present accesory was the vest, which will be a fashion must for some time to come. They were worn with skirts, pants, gauchos and blazers, creating a finished, tailored look. Most of the clothing was close-fitting and finely cut.

Ethnic influence showed up in everything from Bohemian boleros, costumes from the South Sea Island and Russian calf-length boots for men and women. The peasant costume is still going strong while North American Indian designs are becoming increasingly popular.

BARB HARDY

CINDY DALTON

Job interviews most important

If you see students wearing suits or close facsimiles in the near future they probably are not going to a wedding or a funeral. These students have experienced, or are about to, one of the most important events of their lives. A job interview.

Like it or not, a good number of Niagara College students will have to put on their best clothes, comb their hair and smile when they face job interviews within the next four months. The employment interview is one of the most important events in a person's life; those 20 to 30 minutes may determine the entire future course of one's life.

Most of the students, all in third-year technology, said they were relaxed but the strain and tension in their faces was noticeable. Knees were knocking and hands were fidgeting until the moment of the firing squad.

FIRST INTERVIEW

"It's their (students) first interview, and they are no afraid that they think they're (interviewers) going to take their heads off." Ken Anderson, placement officer, said. "It's a good learning experience."

Mr. Anderson advised the students to go to the washroom before their interview because their kidneys seem to react differently.

About 36 interviews were conducted on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 by two companies, Westinghouse and Canada Packers.

Dennis Goulet, Westinghouse representative, interviewed 15 third year technology students. He said the students were very good as they were realistic about what they wanted.

"On the average they seemed to be fairly relaxed," Mr. Goulet said. "I tried to make it as informal as possible."

"He seemed like a friend and not an interviewer," Randy Christie, third year mechanical engineering, said. "He was a good guy. I lost my nervousness as soon as I went in."

"I'm not nervous," Roger Breski, third year mechanical engineering, said before he was interviewed. "There's nothing to be nervous about. I always drink six coffee every morning."

Two Canada Packer interviewers came to the college the following day, Dec. 1.

One of them, Lorenzo Nicodemo, Toronto, said the students look like a "good bunch of guys." He was interviewing a girl later that day and was looking forward to it. Most of the students are pretty good and they don't seem super-nervous, Mr. Nicodemo said.

HELP IS AVAILABLE

So if you do have an interview coming up, take heart in knowing that there are ways to help calm your nerves and boost your confidence.

One step is to read the Niagara College Placement Handbook available at the counselling area in Tecumseh Centre. It tells how to prepare for the interview and gives advice on what to do during the interview.

Obviously, the book can't tell you how every minute of the interview is going to go and an important part of the interview is being yourself.

The first impression is important when you are interviewed and as the Placement Handbook says with regard to clothes, "Let your own good taste be your guide. Simply remember that you are looking for a job—not going to a party or a ball game."

Students appear on CHCH-TV

It was noon and all eyes were on the screen as two tourism students explained their reasons for saving the 12 Mile Creek. Yvonne Kerkdyk and Paul Colburne appeared on CHCH TV's talk show program, Midday, on Dec.3 in Hamilton.

The second year tourism class is involved in a project to convert 12 Mile Creek in St. Catharines into a tourist area. They initiated a publicity campaign to push the project.

Charisse Bowden, tourism student, was on Niagara Falls radio station CJRN Dec. 1 to discuss the proposal. The program, The John Michaels Show, is a phone-in talk program.

The students compiled a report, which they began last January, suggesting the 12 Mile Creek area become a tourist attraction with parks, museums and marine facilities. The area is part of the proposed Highway 406 extension.

The report was released to area newspapers, TV and radio stations in November.

SAC office moved to new building

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) reception and information office has been moved from the SAC trailer to room L-6 in the new Lundy-Merritt Building.

Telephones moved to the new office retain the SAC extension number of 323 as do telephones remaining in the trailer.

Niagara Falls buses will be cancelled

The Niagara Falls bus bringing Niagara College students to welland this term will be cancelled next term because of poor response by students.

"The response for the St. Catharines bus was fair but response to the Niagara Falls bus was disappointing," Al Aboud,student services director,said. Thirty-eight students committed themselves to using the service from St. Catharines next term, while only 13 responded from Niagara Falls.

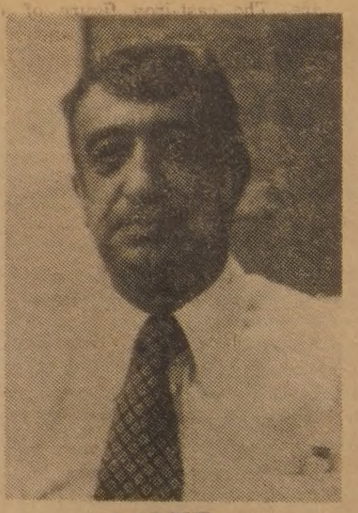
Student Services sent a letter to students who used the buses last term asking them whether or not they would use the bus for the forthcoming term. The student services also extended the deadline for responses from the students using the Niagara Falls bus to Dec. 3 from Nov. 29. The deadline response from the St. Catharines bus was still Nov. 29.

"We needed a minimum of 20 students for each bus to break even," Mr. Aboud said. The St. Catharines bus had about 60 students this term while the Niagara Falls bus has 34 students.

The St. Catharines bus costs $50 a day and the Niagara Falls bus cost $52. The cost for students is $90 and is non-refundable. The St. Catharines bus made $1,640 while the Niagara Falls bus lost $835.

"We (Student Services and Student Administrative Council) are willing to subsidize to a certain extent," Mr. Aboud said. SAC allocated $500 towards bus services this year.

"The main reason for the decline is the students meet each other and form car pools," Mr. Aboud said. "The students who use the bus services have to stay at the school all day, which could also be a factor.



AL ABOUD

"I don't think the bus services are in any way inadequate. The only complaints we had were in the fall when the timing of the St. Catharines bus was off a little and some students had to forfeit their first class."

Dental services free of charge

Book now for January appointments at Niagara College's dental clinic. Preventive dental assistant students will provide dental services free of charge to anyone interested. These services are an examination, an x-ray, and cleaning and sealing of the teeth.

No restorative work will be done but the results of the examinations will be provided to the patients' family dentist upon request.

Clinics will be run Monday and Thursday afternoons and Tuesday and Wednesday mornings.

'Nothing left'

Welland artist dreams of restoring old locks

By NELLE OOSTEROM

Through the city of Welland a phantom armada plies its way down parking lots, roads, and dry river beds. These are the relics of a bygone era, the sailing ships of the first canals.

During the forties, Charles Clark worked as a deckhand on the canals, sailing on schooners and rigs now found only on livingroom walls. Now, semi-retired, he paints pictures in his Welland studio of the way it was then, for it will never be the same. The wheels of progress have ridden over the past and buried it in a mass of concrete and steel.

"If I took my 11-year-old niece down to the canals now, and told her what it used to look like, I don't think she would ever believe me. There's nothing left."

He'd like to see the schooners and old locks restored and made into a tourist attraction before it's too late to save them.

Charles Clark puts the finishing touches on one of his paintings. (Photo by Oosterom)

SEVEN PAINTINGS

He's done a series of seven paintings, which he plans to donate to area schools, which trace the development of the canal system to the present.

"Children growing up today have no idea of what the canals represent. The whole peninsula grew up around them."

He is a reflective man, who values the now-fragile links with the past. The rooms of his house on Abbey Road are filled with antiques collected over the years. The cast-iron figure of a mermaid peeks out of an ancient standing ashtray. The furniture is solid and old.

"When I go out of town, I never look at modern buildings. I just look at the old stuff because there was feeling put into those."

"Today we haven't got time to walk to the store. They spent a lifetime building one thing."

His interest in the canals began as a young boy. Born in Welland Junction, or "Dain City" as he calls it, he was raised in Welland and lived there all his life.

BACK INJURED

Because of a back injury three years ago, he had to leave his job as a crane operator at Stelco. Since then he has concentrated on painting and is working on a wall-sized canvas illustrating the travels of the voyageurs.

"When you paint, you take everything to heart. You want to know what it is, and how it got there."

He took another long draw from his pipe and spoke of his days on the sailing ships.

"Back in 1944, out on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, we used to see whales all the time. At first they scared me half to death because I thought they were German submarines."

"And when we were going through the locks at night, I would stay on the decks till dawn. I never could sleep any way for what I was seeing."

It's not easy to get excited about the past when there's nothing left of it. That's why Mr. Clark puts history on canvas. That's also why he praised the efforts of a group of second year tourism students at Niagara College, who are working on a project to restore the 12 Mile Creek area in St. Catharines into an historic showcase. He'd like to see Welland involved in a similar project to restore its old locks.

"My dream is to dig out one of the old stone locks and then put a ship in it, as a tourist attraction."

"It's just a boneyard now. I want to breath some life into it."

But for now, boneyards and dreams are all that exist. The locks are buried, the old ships are gone and unless something is done soon, Welland's tenuous link with the past will be lost forever.

SAC ROUND-UP

OFS fights fee rise

By KAREN MONCK

Three Niagara recommendations were accepted at an emergency meeting of the Ontario Federation of Students (OFS) Dec. 3 and are being applied province-wide in an OFS-organized fight against tuition increases for college and university students.

Vic Mutart, Student Administrative Council (SAC) division representative, and Lou Bourghson first year theatre arts, represented Niagara SAC at the meeting. Niagara was one of three Ontario community colleges that sent student representation to the meeting.

Vic recommended that:

1. Student representatives meet with fourth and fifth year high school students or send letters to high school student council presidents to gather support from students who will attend post-secondary institution next year. Petitions should also be circulated in high schools. (Vic and Lou have already written to schools in this area.)

2.Satellite campuses carry the petitions as well as main campuses

3. If all else fails, agree with a recommendation by Don Christie representing York University, to demonstrate at Queen's Park and in the next provincial election.

Vic, first year theatre arts, said the meeting taught him that the biggest problem, especially in this area, is student ignorance of the issues.

Students can't absorb the cost of increased tuition if books, transportation, inflation and summer unemployment continue to rise, he said. Summer minimum wages have not increased in three years, he said.

One of the biggest drawbacks of the protest was Natioanl Students Day (NSD) Nov. 9, he said. It was ill-organized, evasive on the issues and planned at poor time, Vic said. He said nsd showed the government that "students cannot really get together on an issue."

"In 10 days it will be my job to come up with 5,000 names of students in a 37-mile perimeter of this campus," he said. The petition can be signed by anyone 18 or older, particularly students, parents and instructors.

He said he found out at the meeting that students in Ontario already pay the highest tuition fees in Canada. College is $50 more per year than other provinces and will be $125 more when the increased tuition starts next fall, he said.

Tuition petition

Student Administrative Council (SAC) president Adam Macsai was to attend a meeting of Ontario SAC presidents with Harry Parrott, minister of colleges and universities, Dec. 10.

Adam was to present a petition with at least 1,000 names protesting increased tuition fees in Ontario. The petition has been in circulation at Niagara for a week.

Vic Mutart, first year theatre arts division representative, said students at Niagara are poorly informed of this situation. Vic is in charge of the distribution of the petitions at Niagara through the SAC office.

Miss Feldman invited SAC to join the OFS on a trail basis that would cost between 20 and 40 cents a student.

Adam said that decision would have to be left up to the next SAC because SAC is overdrawing on almost every budget and must rely on the contingency fund to balance its books.

Charter 'outdated', Adam seeks changes

By KAREN MONCK

Adam Macsai,student Administrative Council (SAC) president, has "taken it upon myself" to make recommendations for changes to the "outdated" SAC constitution.

Two executive members have been fined for not attending meetings. Division representatives, too, who do not attend meetings may be fined or dismissed.

The question of the constitution arose when Vic Mutart, division representative for first year theatre arts, complained that SAC cannot "get anything done efficiently" if members of the board of directors do not attend meetings regularly.

At a Nov. 25 closed meeting of the board of directors, John Thibodeau, vice-president of internal affairs, and Marc Montgomery, vice-president of external affairs, were each fined $5, to be deducted from their honoraria, for their unexplained absence from the meeting. Marc was fined an additional $5 and is to be sent a letter of reprimand for his absence from meetings Dec. 7.

At a closed board of directors meeting Nov. 25, a motion was passed enabling the board to fine or dismiss division representatives who do not attend meetings.

At a general meeting Dec. 7, Adam suggested that if board members were dismissed they would have to be replaced.

"We could leave it up to ourselves to appoint a few people to it (the board) that we think would be competent," he said.

The dismissal of board members or executive members by the board is constitutional but, asked about the constitutionality of appointing members to the board to fill vacancies created by dismissals, Adam said: "I've got one word for the constitution--to hell with the constitution."

Adam told the meeting the constitution drawn up in 1967, is "outdated" and "90 per cent of it has nothing to do with what we're doing now."

He said SAC cannot operate under the rules set in the constitution in its present form.

Any recommendations suggested by Adam for changes in the constitution would have to be presented to the board of directors, Student Services and the college Board of Governors for approval. Adam said they could then be drawn up in legal terms by a lawyer and certified

ELECTION UPDATE

Collins re-elected

Mike Collins, Niagara English instructor, will be spending the next two years in St. Catharines city hall as alderman. He was re-elected Dec. 6 beating out his nearest competitor by 923 votes.

This is his second term representing the six Merritton wards and the third time he has run. In 1972 he was defeated and in 1974 he was elected with more than 1,000 votes.

He received 2,881 of the 7,000 votes cast in the Merritton Ward. Leonard Leo took second place and will serve on council also.

The St. Catharines city clerk's office said 34.5 per cent of the eligible voters cast their votes across St. Catharines.

MARY LAMB

Lamb defeated

It was a defeat for Mary Lamb in the Dec. 6 election. Mrs. Lamb, a former Niagara College English instructor, ran for alderman in Ward 3 in the Pelham municipal election. Incumbent aldermen Ken Gullet and Eric Bergenstein were re-elected.

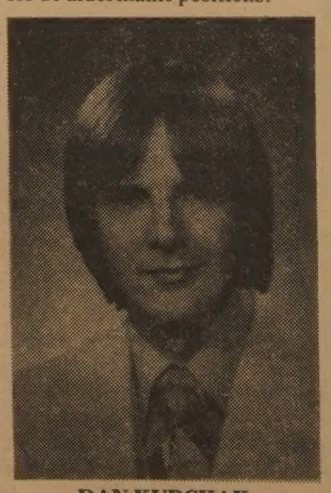
Kurchak loses

Dan Kurchak, former Niagara student, ran for alderman in Thorold for the first time and came within 300 votes of capturing a seat.

The 22-year-old candidate was disappointed but not discouraged. "I'll try again in two years," he said on Dec. 6.

A graduate of the radio and television program at the college, Dan is writing for Creative Service Associates in Toronto, and is creative-consultant for his own locally based Dakur Productions.

Dan was one of 16 candidates for 10 aldermanic positions.



DAN KURCHAK

See and ski Europe $496 for 10 day trip

A chance to take in the sights of Europe and ski some of its finest slopes will be offered to students this spring at a cost that includes much more than air fare.

"See and Ski Europe '77," sponsored by Canadian Student Tours Ltd. (CSLT) will take in Austria, Italy, West Germany, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

The 10-day excursion, starting March 18 and ending March 27, will be open to everyone at a cost of $496.

Julie Lee, a first year classics student at Brock University, is working with CSTL to help encourage participation in the trip.

She said the cost will include a return flight on a major airline, good hotel accommodations, supper meals for seven days and breakfast for the full 10 days.

Tickets for five major bus tours will be provided at no extra cost.

The tours will take the travel group to the castles of King Ludwig in Switzerland, the Salzburg music festivals in Austria, Vipiteno, the famed souvenir headquarters in the Alps of Northeast Italy;Oberammergau, the sight of the Passion plays in south Bavaria, and Munich, the "romantic capital" of Baveria.

The travellers will have a chance to go on a different ski trip every day and will be aided in their choice of slopes by a ski director, Miss Lee said. Bus transportation to five major ski resorts will be provided at no extra cost.

Miss Lee is intending to go on the excursion and she said she feels the cost is reasonable.

"Student air fare alone for a trip like this is normally that much. The cost of this trip includes much more than that."

As preparation for the trip, ski films and briefing sessions will be held. The time and place of these sessions will be know presently, Miss Lee said.

The flight will depart from Toronto International Airport and arrive in Zurich, Switzerland, with bus transportation to and from the airport included in the cost of the trip.

Additional information is available in St. Catharines at 684-3797.

Cross-country trip only for two clubs

The Molson's Breweries cross-country skiing trip to Barrie has been arranged for Jan. 7 but it is no longer available to the general student body.

Eugene Lampman, SAC club convener, said the trip has been taken over as a project of the Personnel Club. About 25 members of the club will attend, he said.

There are 82 places arranged for the bus trip to Barrie.

Eugene said he would first like to offer seats to members of the Personnel Club and then offer the remaining seats to members of the Ski Club. If there are places left, the trip will then be open to members of the student body, he said.

The trip was originally proposed at a SAC general meeting Nov. 9 as a possible function to be available to the general student body, possibly to be arranged as part of the Winter Carnival. The option of a plant tour of Molson's was also considered.

Buses will leave at 10.30 a.m. from the campus. Skiing will be available from 1 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. At 4.30 p.m. participants will be able to buy hot dogs and beer at cost prices at the Barrel House, a pub at the ski course.

Cost of the trip is $10 per person, with Molson's providing free ski rentals.

The Personnel Club was allocated a budget of $250 at a closed board of directors meeting following the general SAC meeting Dec. 7 to subsidize members who go on the trip.

SPORTS

Controversial judging part of competition

BY GUDRUN SCHATZLER

Ron Shaver skated quickly towards the centre of the ice. As he neared it, he jumped into the air and came down, crouched on one foot and spinning. He had just completed a perfect flying sit-spin.

But there were no judges watching him. If there were, they were watching to enjoy, not to mark.

Ron Shaver, Canada's best figure skater, was the guest skater at the Western Ontario Figure Skating Sectional Championships held in St. Catharines.

Ron completed another flying sit-spin and then a double axel (two revolutions after jumping backwards into the air). Each time he received applause and cheers.

Earlier, Ron said "people" judge figure skating, so "emotions are involved. There has to be controversy in judging." A skater just has to accept that.

Cameras clicked as Ron executed a perfect camel spin (spinning on one leg while the rest of the body is completely horizontal).

"And this is just a warm-up folks," the announcer exclaimed.

AFTER WARM-UP

After the warm-up, Ron left the ice, to return a few minutes earlier. He skated to three short pieces of music. In all three, he executed perfect triple toe loops (three revolutions after jumping into the air), double axels, spins and foot work.

Each jump was choreographed to a part of the music.

Andre Dennis, choreographer, added "different dimensions" to Ron's skating, Ron said.

"I had style and Andre added anthusiasm and fresh, new ideas to my skating."

Ron began to skate to a lively piece of Greek music. He demonstrated the intricate footwork which he has became known for.

Ron works with three coaches —his choreographer; Carlo Fassi, who teaches him figures; and Neil Carpenter, who coaches him in certain moves and style.

"It's a harmonious situation and it's been a benefit to my skating."

Three different coaches teaching him three different things has made "a more complete Ron Shaver," Ron said.

His exhibition is over and he skates off the ice, waving. The audience stands and applauds. Someone shouts, "Ron Shaver, the next World Champion!"

Area skaters in top three

Three St. Catharines skaters placed in the top three of their events at the Western Ontario Sectional Championships in St. Catharines last week.

Toivo Heinsaar won top honors in pre-novice men's competition and took third with his partner, Nancy Maybee, in the pre-novice dance.

Keith Davis of St. Catharines and Linda Joy Borr of Guelph came third in junior dance. Keith also won the bronze medal in novice men's competition.

The Preston Figure Skating Club placed skaters in the top three in every competition, except two. In senior ladies and senior men, Preston was not entered.

There were 16 competitions.

BLACK LABEL

There is a new addition at pub nites. Black Label beer has made its appearance.

"We have always had it but there was never any need for it," Fred Bassi,pub manager said.

Previously Labatt's Blue and 50 were sold but the liquor licence act stated that two companies must be represented.

3 months of racing likely for Fort Erie

To offset the elimination of standardbred racing at Garden City Raceway in St. Catharines, the Ontario Jockey Club (OJC) announced in November extended thoroughbred racing dates at Fort Erie in 1977.

The 1977 dates must await approval, expected in January, from the Ontario Racing Commission before being made official.

Next summer, the OJC is proposing thoroughbred racing between June 3 and Sept. 4 at the border track. Spring racing was discontinued in 1976 and is not scheduled for next year.

From June until mid-July, the OJC will attempt to operate two thoroughbred racetracks simultaneously in Ontario. The horses running at Fort Erie during this period would constgitute a "B" circuit, where horses of lesser quality would compete.

Thoroughbred horsemen have been seeking a minor racing oval in Ontario for many years. While there are many standardbred tracks operating, only one thoroughbred meeting is conducted in Ontario at any time.

A few years ago the OJC attempted to operate Windsor Raceway, regular harness racing track, as a "B" thoroughbred oval. This didn't last long, however. Because of huge financial losses, standardbred racing was soon re-instated at the Windsor track.

Attendance at Garden City was decreasing yearly, while attendance at the Fort Erie summer meeting last year suggested "B" racing could survive at the border track.

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Kicinski Knight's big gun but cagers lose 4 straight

Niagara College's men's basketball team lost 83-67 to D'Youville College, Buffalo, in a wide-open exhibition game which saw 66 team fouls.

Ted Kicinski led all scorers with 26 points but Niagara failed to place anyone else in double figures. Forward Terry Krawec got eight, guards Angie Perrella and Pat Kilby both sunk six points each.

D'Youville got balanced scoring from Dave Mohr with 20, Kevin Tucker, 19, and Willie Wells, 12.

The Knights were behind 42-28 at half-time, and were outscored 41-39 in the second-half on Dec. 7 in the Niagara College gym.

ST. CLAIR

A defensive lapse of 10 minutes in the first-half enabled St. Clair College, Windsor, to whip the men's basketball team 67-53 on Dec. 4 in Windsor.

From the five to 18-minute mark of the first-half the Windsor crew scored 18 points, and the NC team did not get closer than six for the rest of the game.

Centre Kicinski led all scorers with 18 points; Perrella and Krawec both helped the cause with eight each.

The big guns for St. Clair were Bob Schmager scoring 16, and Kevin Boutette, sinking 12.

The Knights trailed 36-25 at half-time and were outscored 31-28 in the second-half by the shorter Windsor team.

"We don't seem to shoot enough," Peter Rylander, coach of the team, said. "We should be taking 80 shots a game, but right now we're only taking 60-65."

Niagara shot at a 32 per cent average for the game, making 20 of 62 field goals. Mr. Rylander said St. Clair controlled their own backboards as well as taking charge of NC's.

"We had 25 defensive rebounds with Kicinski getting 13 of them, but we only got nine offensive rebounds."

The loss dropped the men's team to a 1-6 record on the year.

CONESTOGA

Leading by as much as 10 points in the second half, Niagara men's basketball team sat back and took it easy and allowed Conestoga College, Kitchener, to win 73-71 on Dec. 2 at Niagara College.

Leading scorers for the Knights were Ted Kicinski with 20 and forward Terry Krawec with 12.

Kitchener's late rally was powered by the shooting prowess of Gord Larone with 18, guard Rick Hoover with 17 and Dale McPherson, 14. Most of McPherson's points came in the late stages of the contest.

FANSHAWE

Behind Fanshawe College, London, by only six points with 2:30 left in the game, the men's team was hit by a streak of cold shooting, and became the victims of a 72-54 loss on Nov. 25 in London.

Coach Peter Rylander put his team in a full-court press late in the game and forced London to turnover the ball. "We took three silly shots and none of them went in, and they (Fanshawe) went right out and scored three lay-ups in a row. We took bad shots and didn't make any.

NC's Kicinski led all scorers with 22 points and guard Angleo Perrella added 11, with Carl Smit chipping in 10.

Top shooters for Fanshawe were Pierre Sonier and Barry Brady, both with 15 points, and Ron Bailey with 14.

NC beats Fanshawe 3-4-1 season record

Five power play goals in the third period by St. Clair College, Windsor, powered them to a 9-2 victory over Niagara College men's hockey team on Dec. 4 at Windsor.

The lost, which dropped the ice Knights to a 3-4-1 record, saw Niagara outshot 48-27.

NC's goals came from defenceman Bob Little at 5:11 of the first period, and by Tom MacLean at 5:47 of the second.

St. Clair got two goals each from captain Lou Gagon, Mike Wall and Tom Boroske. Single markers were scored by Tom Friesen, Mark Tuson and Chuck Bosntak.

"We played our best two periods ever against St. Clair," Fred Bassi, coach of the team, said. "'We held them to seven shots and we were all over them, but four of our guys were playing hurt and it began to show up in the third period. Our penalty killing unit failed in the third period, too."

Windsor netted a total of six power play goals compared to Niagara's one. The Knights led 1-0 after the first, trailed 3-2 going into the final stanza, and were shutout 6-0 in the third.

LOSE TO CANADORE

Powerhouse Canadore College North Bay, erupted for five goals in the third period to bury the Niagara men's hockey team 9-1 on Nov. 27 at the Welland Arena.

"They just blew us off the ice. They were physically stronger then us and passed the puck well also," Coach Fred Bassi said.

Niagara, who were forced to go with four defencemen because of injuries and work commitments, were outshot 49-27.

Niagara's lone goal came in the second period by assistant captain Barry Robertson.

North Bay got two goal games from Peter Danyluk and Mark Storie. Single markers came off the sticks of Jim St. Onge, D'arcy Mulligan, Ken Wharram, Gary Merkley and Fred Thompson.

"When they had us 2-1 in the second period we missed two or three chances, by Bob Tysen and Darte Miller, to tie the game and then to go ahead," Mr. Bassi said.

BEAT LONDON

Barry Robertson's four-goal output powered the ice Knights to a 9-3 victory over Fanshawe College in London on Nov. 25.

Fanshawe was only one point in the standings behind Niagara at that point, and the win moved the Knights into a stronger playoff slot.

Niagara's other scorers were Bob Tysen with two markers, Darte Miller, Ken Thrower and Mark Millar.

The London crew only managed 12 shots in the final two periods. Niagara lead 1-0 after the first, 6-0 going into the third and out-scored Fanshawe 3-2 in the final period.

Fanshawe's three goals, all coming inthe third period, were by Doug Newton and a two-goal show by Bill Corbett.

Brouwer scores 16 Ladies lose 64-50 beaten by zone trap

Niagara College's ladies basketball team finished the first half of their schedule with a 64-50 loss to St. Clair College, Windsor.

The game put the ladies' record at 2-3 for the year with five games remaining in the regular season.

The only two players for Niagara to reach double figures were Joanne Brouwer with 16 points, and Sandy Mckay, 10 points.

Shelly McFadden led the way for St. Clair with 17 and Penny Mills and Jeannie brown both added 10 points each.

"We had only one practice in nine days because of the snow we've had," Russ Stevenson, coach of the team,said. "We had a long bus trip to Windsor, and we had to play within the same hour we got there.

hour we got there. They (Windsor) used a zone trap, but since we couldn't work on it in practice we couldn't get through it during the game," Mr. Stevenson said.

Sauna ready in 2 weeks

With work 90 per cent completed on the sauna bath in the gymnasium the $1,500 sweat-box will be ready for use next week.

The college work crew is just finishing the inside, adding cider board to the outside, and installing the furnace, Peter Rylander, athlectic director, said.

The sauna will accommodate eight to 10 people and is situated in one of the change rooms of the gym.

A segregation rule will be set up by the athletic director for men and women with both sexes getting equal time in the sauna.

'Cars are for people' run by garage owner

If you don't know a tire from a battery, then this course is for you!

The course, "Cars are for people," is being offered at the Welland Vale campus of the college beginning Jan. 19.

The course is designed for "people who know very little about cars," Anthony Flus, course instructor, said.

Mr. Flus, a service station owner in St. Catharines, said he had been thinking about a course of this type for some time. "A lot of people come in to the station, and you tell them their battery's gone and they don't know what it is."

The course will cover the basics of automobile maintenance, how to do minor repairs, safe driving habits and how to save money when buying a car or getting it repaired.

Mr. Flus said he is especially concerned with "people getting taken" for large amounts of money. "When I see people getting taken for $500, $600 or more, it's really pathetic."

The course will help a person who wants to buy a new or used car. It will help show people what to look for when choosing a mechanic or dealer.

Mr. Flus said he was disturbed at the number of cars on the road that show "an extreme lack of care." Since the advent of self-serve stations, people do not check their oil, they just gas up and go, he said.

He said it was not unusual for a car to come in needing at least two quarts of oil.

He said he hopes the course will enable people to understand what a mechanic is talking about when he tells them something is wrong with their cars.

The course will run from Jan. 19 to April 27 and cost $35.

Bassi fights in Hamilton

Fred Bassi, Niagara's battling knight, boxed on Dec. 12 but results were not known at press time.

After appearing in the ring after a 12-year absence Fred won by a technical knockout in the second round last month in Buffalo.

"If I'm tough enough to defeat the Americans I should do well against the Canadians. I'll be an unknown and a southpaw and that will help me."

Fred, five-foot 11 and 200 pounds, will undoubtedly fight against boxers who are bigger than he is but, as Fred says, "The bigger they are the slower they are—usually."

BADMINTON

The Buffalo badminton invitational tournament scheduled for Dec. 4 was cancelled due to weather conditions. No date has been set for a future meet, according to Peter Rylander, athletic director.

The scheduled game between Niagara College and Bryant and Stratton of Buffalo, N.Y., on Nov. 30 was cancelled.

Snow or Sun

Aspen

If you want to ski and have a good time doing it, go to Aspen, Colorado. The slopes are developed for the beginner and the expert.

There are many condominiums, inns and the least expensive, the boarding houses at $7 to $10 a day to stay at. The atmospere is friendly.

Four mountains within miles of each other, Aspen, Highland, Buttermilk and Snowmass, offer among the best skiing in America. The slopes are open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day and lift tickets are about $12 a day.

Other sports are available include girl watching, tennis, cross-country skiing and skating. Many hot pools ans saunas are available to relax in.

The town is built on the old frontier style in a valley with towering mountains overlooking it. More than 60 restaurants and taverns offer superb food at relatively inexpensive prices. The restaurants convert into meeting places after dinner, many game rooms for pool, pin ball and other games are available, and night entertainment is fantastic. You can dance till dawn to the latest disco music.

Florida

Palm trees, beaches, the ocean, and 30 degree Celsius weather are not the kind of surroundings that come to mind at Christmas.

Christmas in Florida is a nice change from the usual snowy verison that most Canadians are used to.

Nothing is more relaxing than lying on the beach with a glass of Tia Maria on ice in hand, soaking up sun.

Florida offers about 40 main attractions, the major ones being Walt Disney World, Silver Springs, the Kennedy Space Centre, Sea World, Busch Gardens, and Marineland.

Each offers a full day, if not more, of entertainment.

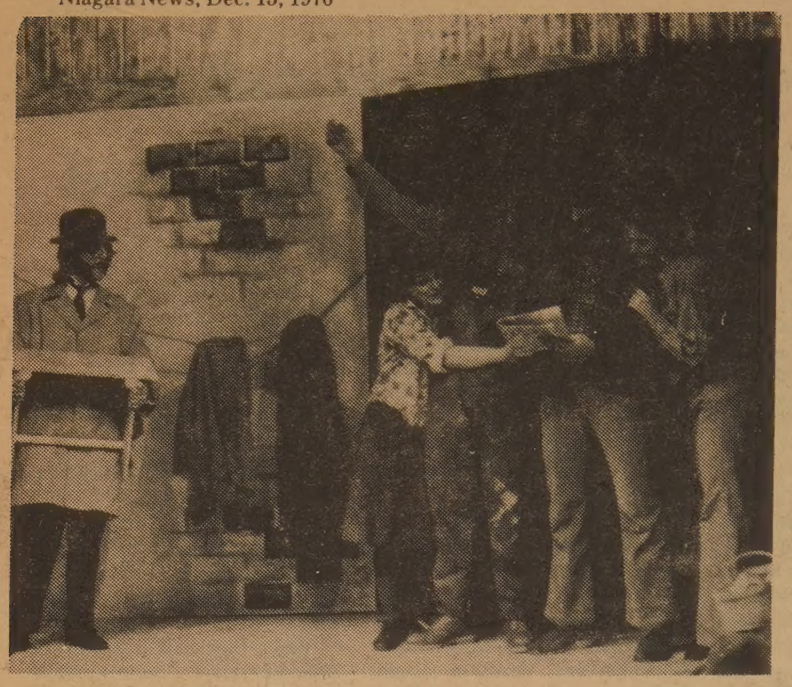
Even if you go just to relax, and don't visit these attractions, you can just lie on the beach and watch the shrimp boats fishing a few hundred feet off shore. If it's a clear day, you can often spot porpoises playing in the surf.

Florida also offers an exciting night-life, if you tend to be more of an after-hours person.

The discoteques provide a place for people to get together where you can meet people from all over the United States and Canada.

When the bars close at 2 a.m., there are beach parties to go to, which often last until the sunrises, the best part of the day.

So whether you are a retired senior citizen, or the most avid of party-goers, Florida has it all!



Bumpkin Bart

Cast members perform scenes from Niagara College Theatre Centre's production of Bumpkin Bart. The play concerns a country bumpkin whose life is changed when he wins a large amount of money in a lottery. Bumpkin Bart, to be seen by hundreds of area schoolchildren, will also run Friday, Dec. 17, 7.30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 18, 1 p.m. at the Theatre Centre, 54 Empire St., Welland. Admission is $1 for children, students and senior citizens, $2 for other adults. For further information, please call the Theatre Centre 735-0550. (Photos by Bunyan)

Compared to Global by professionals

RTV municipal election coverage a success

By KAREN MONCK

Niagara radio and television (RTV) students had been on the air live for more than two hours when one of the two men at the tally boards developed a headache and began to melt under the hot lights.

A search was begun to find aspirin somewhere in the election central headquarters on Church Street in St. Catharines.

About an hour later the man's jacket had disappeared, his vest had become undone, the sleeves of his shirt were rolled up and his tie was considerably loosened. The search for the little white pills was still on.

About 50 RTV students were positioned at different jobs in election central, providing the Niagara region with only live continuous TV coverage of municipal election results Dec.6. The actual broadcast started at 7.30 p.m. but the students had been busy since 8.30 a.m. with final preparations for the project they had been working on for more than three months.

Channel 11 television from Hamilton was set up at the opposite end of the room at election central and helped provide lighting for the student production. Channel 11 was covering more than one region so it did not go into the detail that RTV students did.

Ron Kronstein directs show from van.

Larry Taylor, RTV program co-ordinator and executive producer of the show, said Channel 11 personnel had commented on the professionalism of the students.

Mr. Taylor said the students were competing with the other media covering the elections and in many instances beat them with results or got interviews with candidates first.

"A lot of people didn't think the kids could pull it off," he said.

He said he considered the broadcast to be the best production out of the college in seven years. He said he heard professional media personnel favorably compare the all-student production to a Global or City Television broadcast.

Close co-operation was provided by the regional government, who were "very keen" on having the students produce the broadcast, Ron Kronstein, director of the show and second year RTV student, said. Mr. Taylor said that without the help of regional government and their microwave feed, the full-scale production would have been impossible.

A microwave link was set up with Maclean-Hunter Cable TV in St. Catharines to their head signal in Fonthill. From there it was picked up by Armstrong Cable in Welland and Niagara Falls, Ron said.

The students also provided 12 cameras and 12 monitors to provide closed circuit information for other media in election central. Cameras were borrowed from St. Catharines high schools and the board of education to make it possible.

Tally boards to record visually the results of the races for mayors and aldermen were used throughout the show for the 12 municipalities. Regional councillors and school board trustees were announced as results came in.

Ken Girotti was in charge of making sure that all results were put up on the tally boards as they came in. Cameras could shift to tally board men Peter Williams and Bob Adams at any time during the show. Fill-in interviews with candidates were conducted by Marc Montgomery between the announcement of results and development by anchormen Jeff Woolnough and Bruce Gamble.

Jeff Woolnough interviews John Kirby, director of Emergency Measures Organization for Regional government, and man in charge of election control. (Photo by Monck)

Everything the students had learned in their two or three years in the course was put into the production, Ron said.

All co-ordination of the broadcast was conducted by Ron from the RTV van parked outside election central. At no time could he leave the van during the show.

By 10.30 p.m., he and Barb Armitae, script assistant, were trading puffs on a cigarette throught the door of the van. Video equipment is extremely sensitive to smoke, so they were obliged to smoke throught the door, Mr. Taylor explained.

Ron was responsible for ordering every shot change and cue during the program. He had to know each development in the election to plan the next shot. At best, Ron was two or three shots ahead of the camera.

"Have we got any results coming in yet?" he asked the floor director from his station in the van. "I'd really like to know what's happening after this. Tell them to go nice and slow, we're in no rush."

For three months prior to the show, research and preparation were being done by RTV students between their other shows and assignments. Research into the election process, the candidates and the issues in each municipality had to be done and learned by the anchormen and interviewers. Pre-taped interviews with ex-Mayor Joe Reid of St. Catharines and Harlold Cove, St. Catharines city clerk, were used during the introduction of the program before any results were available.

There were people doubling and tripling jobs and doing it well, Ron said.

A simulated studio was set up at Niagara for rehearsals. During rehearsals the students got an idea of the problems that could occur and even simulated problems to prepare solutions. Few of the anticipated problems came up during the actual broadcast,Ron said. There was no room for mistakes or inaccuracies in the show, he said.

Ron said the show was expected to run between four and six hours. Five hours of continuous live broadcasting had been put in before the results were finalized.

The experience of covering an election is sure to be of use to all the students involved since every radio or television station covers an election at some time, Mr. Taylor said.

Radio television students rehearse their five-hour broadcast in a simulated studio at Niagara. Left to right, Bob Adams, Ken Girotti, Jim Davey, Dennis Bourdages, Jeff Woolnough, Bruce Gamble. (Photo by Middlemiss)

CANDU reactors a mistake, PC criticizes Prime Minister

By RIC DOLPHIN

Prime Minister Trudeau is "more of a problem than a solution"...the media, especially broadcasters, tend to disgrace rather than commend politicians...Canada should not sell CANDU reactors to countries that do not have nuclear weapons. Such were the thoughts expressed by Allan McKinnon, Progressive Conservative member of parliament for Victoria, who made a speak-and-run visit to Niagara College Dec. 2.

Mr. McKinnon, PC defence critic, was speaking to a small group of journalism students. Due to miscalculatons, the originally planned, larger audience failed to materialize.

Although he feels Mr. Trudeau is not the man to lead the Canadian people, Mr. McKinnon said the Prime Minister is "cool" and has gained a little ground in the past couple of weeks. His television appearance, and statements about Canada's "great danger" after the Parti Quebecois victory could be intended to persuade Canadians that only Mr. Trudeau could be their savior.

"He's a very controlled man and he says exactly what he means to say," Mr. McKinnon said.

Regarding widespread criticism of the Trudeaus' installation of a swimming pool at the official residence, Mr. McKinnon said the matter was overemphasized.

"I expect the Clarks will enjoy it as much as the Trudeaus."

ALLAN MCKINNON

The media are inclined to dwell on scandal and sensationalism in political affairs, Mr. McKinnon said. It is unfortunate that newspapers and news programs rarely point ou the intelligent remarks made by MPs.

"Some politicians say outrageous things to attract the media."

He quoted a remark by the late Robert F. Kennedy on dealings with the press: "Never explain, never complain, get even!" Mr. McKinnon said it is sometimes hard for a politician to "get even"—a misquote can leave an indelible mark.

He has learned to be wary of "long interviews". "Somewhere along the way you say contradictory things."

At the same time, he said, MPs are not perfect.

"The House of Commons is not made up of blushing violets, by any means. There are 264 very ambitious people sitting there."

DISGRACE TO CANADA

Turning his criticsm towards the Liberals' handling of the sale of CANDU nuclear reactors to countries like South Korea and India, Mr. McKinnon expressed distaste.

He termed it "a terrible disgrace to the country (Canada)."

"(We should) absolutely stop selling CANDU reactors...surely we didn't need the money that badly. Little did I know we were losing our shirts on the deal as well as being totally immoral." he said there was no more militaristic nation than South Korea.

"It's like selling hand-grenades to kids," he said.

Mr. McKinnon said Canada should not have nuclear arms. He did not claim to be a "hawk", but he agreed with the Liberal Party's increase in the defence budget and he called it "James Richardson's (the former defence minister) only accomplishment in defence...but a major one."

He does not beleive Quebec is on the road to separatism—"not at all", and particularly not on the basis of "such scanty evidence". He referred to a gallup pole indicating only 11 per cent of Quebecers wanted separation. In the event the majority of Quebec voted to separate, Mr. McKinnon said, an armed repression would result in dire consequences and only aggravate the situation.

"At the end of it all, we'd still have five million French, only they'd be a hell of a lot madder than they are now."

Twice the mail

Advanced mechanization will not be installed in Welland Post Office for at least six months. Subsequently, the usual Christmas mail build-ups will make it necessary to send cards early for arrival before Dec. 25, Ron Gibson, Welland postmaster, said.

In comparison to the slower summer months, the two middle weeks of December bring about twice as much mail through the post office, Mr. Gibson said.

In past years at this time, up to 75 temporary workers were hired to cope with the onslaught. This year, only 50 are being hired to cut down on the crash training needed. Full time employees will work overtime to supplement the two-fold work load, Mr. Gibson said.

As many students are hired as possible, he said, but the problem is they are limited to evening work until school finishes in late December.

Mail processing in Toronto and Montreal is almost totally computerized and automated, Mr. Gibson said. This does not take away jobs, it "changes the jobs". The envelopes are coded and sorted by a machine, he said.

Following Christmas, the rush subsides, although the influx is still higher than during the summer months. This is because there is more business being done in the winter due to fewer people taking vacations, he said.

Local mail at this time of year should be allowed one extra day for arrival under "normal" weather conditions, Mr. Gibson said. Mail to Canadian addresses beyond Toronto should be allowed an extra week.

For arrival on Dec. 24 or before, letters and cards to Europe should have been posted before Dec. 8; for England, Dec. 15.

Postage for Canadian locations, now 10 cents, will increase to 12 cents, March 1.

Program accelerated

With more high schools switching over to the semester system, Niagara College is once again having its accelerated General Business program.

The program is a two-year one that high school students graduating in January, can complete in 16 months.

This is the program's fourth year, and there are already 24 students enrolled, A.P. McIntee, dean of the school of business, said.

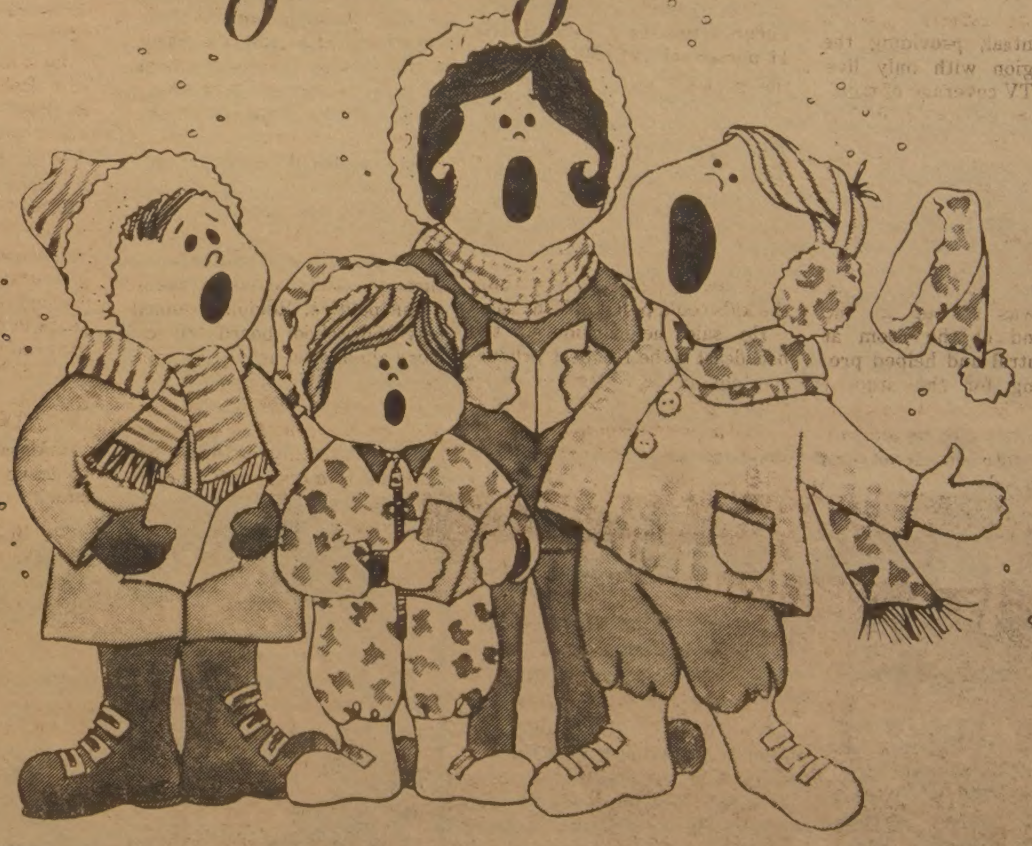
In a semester system, students take 75-minute classes, and they finish a course in half a year. Those who need only a few credits to graduate, can then go on to college in January.

"The course is quite popular," Mr. McIntee said, "It's filling a need. Instead of these students having to sit around until next September, they can move right into college."

The students begin on Jan. 24, go until April, then return in May and June.

"In this time, the students complete the work of the first two terms, then they can go into second year in September," Mr. McIntee said.

"Merry Christmas"



To All of You

from Everyone at SAC

Snow is only decoration

Evergreens become the most popular tree around Christmas, but this 40-footer has survived to a size that saves it from a living-room fate. (Photo by Monck)

Folk tale explains Christmas tree

By JOE EMDIN

The Christmas tree is the second most essential item at Christmas, next to Santa Claus himself.

There is nothing that captures the beauty and sparkle of the festive season like the colorfully, adorned evergreen.

The origin of the Christmas tree is obscure. The early church discouraged use of evergreen decorations in Christian homes, because their display had long been associated with heathen festivals. Today, however, the tree has found a place in almost all homes, Christian or not.

Although there is neither record or probable tradition about the origin of the Christmas tree, there is a German folk tale on the subject.

One Christmas eve, a forester and his family were gathered about the fire. Knocking was heard at the door, and the father, opening the door, saw a little child, cold, hungry and nearly exhausted. He was brought in, fed, warmed, and given a bed for the night. In the morning, the family was aroused by the singing of angels, gathered around their guest who was changed into the Christ child.

"See," he said. "I have gladly received your gifts and this is my gift to you."

He broke off a branch from a fir tree, and set it in the earth.

"Hence forward this tree shall always bear its fruit at Christmas, and you shall always have abundance," the Christ child said.

The tale helps to explain the placing of presents, on and beneath the Christmas trees today.

Christmas tree most popular tradition

By JOANNE DAVIS

Traditions have developed around the Christmas Tree and the last tradition has become the most popular.

The evergreen tree demonstrates a permanence that seasonal vegetation does not. William Sansom, writer, states that all evergreens bear fruit, seemingly as "a triumph of fertility over the elements."

There are legends and stories about almost everything and those about Christmas are abundant.

Martin Luther is said to have been moved by the stars in the sky on a winter's night. He tried to simulate their effect by placing candles on a little tree in his house. This links the beginnings of the Christmas tree with the Reformation.

One old belief that stems from pre-Christmas times holds that "all nature is transformed on the eve of Christ's birth.

Before Christmas trees, people decorated their homes with other types of greenery.

The Romans decked their homes with tree branches; non-Romanized Europeans used fir branches, and the Greeks carried poles wreathed in orange, olive and myrtle leaves.

Just before the Christmas tree became popular, wooden triangles were decorated and used as ornaments. Often these triangles would be carried from house to house with a request for money.

There are, and have been, many ways of decorating Christmas trees. They have changed through the years.

One Victorian practice lost to us is the hanging of sweetmeats and fruits on the tree. These decorations remained on the tree until Christmas was over.

Candles became a popular ornament in the early 19th century, but there were many problems with this decoration.

When missionaries brought trees with candles to northern North America, the Eskimos ate the candles because they were made of deer tallow.

In Australia the candles melted and became a fire hazard. Muslin dresses and long hair also caught fire too easily.

Today's electric bulbs are much safer Christmas tree decorations.

Toys gone too far

By LIZ MATHIAS and BRENDA FREURE

Fact or fantasy? There is nothing left to the imagination anymore, especially in toys.

In a surreptitious investigation of a local department store, it was found the $6 million man and Bionic Woman may cohabit soon. They find they are such big sellers this year, they should expand their line. By next Christmas there may be a bionic baby. They cannot decide between a boy or a girl, so it will probably come with interchangeable parts.

Growing-up Skipper has been going through "puberty" for a few months. She is into a bra now. Who knows what she will be up to next.

Even though Happy Birthday Tender Love is on the best seller list, she is the only one complaining. She has celebrated three birthdays now and has not grown an inch.

Joey Stivic doll may be physically correct, but mentally he is depressed...Nobody seems to want him, so he just sits in a corner and exposes himself to Baby Alive, who is also correct. She eats correctly, digests correctly, and defecates correctly. Just do not move her after a meal, because she also regurgitates correctly.

Jaws, the newest and hottest game on the market, may be more for the parents than for the kids. If the little one is always putting his fingers into things he should not, one game of Jaws will solve the problem.

Here is one for sports fans. Supertoe, even without panty hose, he can kick a football farther than Joe Namath. But he's not nearly as sexy.

Kiss Me Baby doll teaches the child the only way to get attention is by violence. Punch her in the stomach and she kisses you. Now when is the last time *you* punched someone and got kissed for it?

Quebec skiing

Drive to 2 areas from here

If you're planning on skiing this winter, you can't go wrong if you head for Quebec.

There are two main areas within easy driving range of the Niagara area.

The Laurentians offer the greatest variety of mountains, with several large resorts and countless smaller ones. Mont Tremblant is the best known of the Laurentian ski resorts, and one takes a chance on a large crowd and long lines on weekends.

The smaller Laurentian ski areas offer less variety in ski runs but are usually less crowded.

Conditions in the Laurentians are almost always good to excellent, as the weather is more stable than the Niagara area.

Skiing in the Laurentians usually begins in late November and continues through to April.

A working knowledge of French is a definite asset. Prices for accommodation and tow tickets are the same as, if not lower than, the Niagara area.

A unique skiing package is to be found in the Eastern Townships of Quebec.

This largely Anglophone area has some of the best, if not the best, skiing in eastern North America.

A week's ski ticket at one of the Ski-East resorts is accepted at any of the other five.

If you buy a week's tow ticket at Mount Sutton, the ticket is accepted at Owl's Head, Orford, Bromont and Jay Peak.

All the mountains are in Quebec, except Jay Peak which is just over the border in Vermont and has the only cable car in the east to carry you to the top of the mountain.

A five-day tow ticket from Monday to Friday in this area costs about $50. Lessons, usually two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon, are inexpensive.

The ski season in this area runs from early December through to April, and conditions are usually good throughout the season.

FORMAL
[Cont'd from P. 1]

Mr. Rapone said SAC tries to do everything it thinks students are interested in.

"We"ll attempt the impossible," he said, to get the student body involved and united.

"I think it would be something to show a little bit of unity in the college and there seems to be little unity right now," he said.

Press Theatre

N/C students set stage

Press Theatre is receiving a little extra help again this season—and it's great for Niagara's theatre students.

The Niagara College Theatre Centre is building the sets for Press Theatre productions. They do everything that goes into building a set—props, lighting and carpentry, Nicholas Ayre, technical director/production manager at the Theatre Centre said.

The students work with a model of the set, floor plans, sectional drawings and blueprints.

Everybody at the Theatre Centre gets to work on Press Theatre sets at some time. It is a working experience for them, he said.

The students are in direct contact with the theatre's artistic director, Lynne Gorman.

Set and costume designers supervise the construction of the sets. Before the models and plans become the set Miss Gorman makes any changes necassary.

"During technical rehearsals, I run the show", she said. The students are working under a stage manager, but Miss Gorman gives the final approval.

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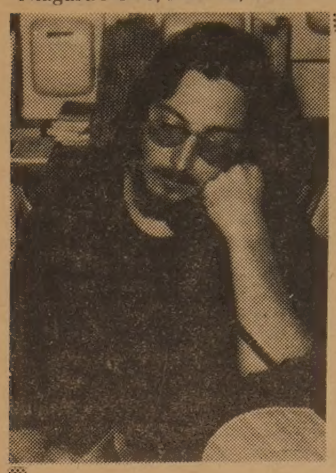


Sheldon Curran tries another number.

Which man the people of St. Catharines were going to choose for mayor was difficult to determine from a survey taken by first and second-year Niagara College journalism students Dec. 1.

With the promise of a pizza, 16 students trekked through a blizzard to conduct the survey which involved phoning 469 St. Catharines voters for the St. Catharines Standard.

It was difficult enough for the surveyors even to get an outside line with so many phones in use. It proved even harder, once connected, to gain an assertive answer.

Many of the citizens phoned were not familiar with the candidates running; some were not voting and some just plain didn't care.

One man said it was no concern of the Standard which way he was going to vote. Moreover, he felt it was a crime against his constitutional rights to be affronted with such a question.

Of the six choices available, the winner of the Dec. 6 election, Roy Adams, was third by survey results. Second place was jointly held by John Braun and David Lewis. The number one position went to a candidate with the questionable name, "Don't Know." In fact, 301 people said they did not know whom they would vote for.

The students, under the surveillance of Andrew Neimers. city hall reporter, gained an insight into the workings of a professional newsroom. They also left the building with tired fingers and buzzing eardrums, grateful for the experience, but glad it was over.

Taught 13 years in Zaire

A new graphic arts instructor, who spent 13 years in Zaire training Zairans in printing has come to Niagara to take over the late Ronald Rewbury's class. Henry Dirks, the new instructor, began teaching at Niagara Nov. 22.

Mr. Dirks said he has been in the printing trade for 27 years and, since his return to Canada in August, he has worked on his own while looking for another position. He said he doesn't know how long he will stay at the college.

James Cuthbertson, chairman of enviromental studies, said there has been no one hired to fill the vacancy of Graphic Arts program co-ordinator, left open with the death of Mr. Rewbury. He said advertisements will soon be placed in newspapers for applicants to fill the position.

Mr. Dirks lived in Kishasa, Zaire, and trained people in the printing trade. He said he planned to leave in 1972 but the Zairan government asked him to train people in operating another printing plant.

CAF training girls to be plane mechanics

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) are now training girls to become airplane mechanics in Greenwood, N.S.

Duane Orr,Niagara counsellor, discovered this when he and 32 other counsellors went to the east coast to tour military instituions last month. the trip was sponsored by the CAF.

"It's a great break-through for women," Mr. Orr said.

He was a last minute replacement as the other counsellors were from the elementary and secondary level.

The excursion lasted almost a week and was "an eye-opening experience.

"We had very little free time as they had us on a strict schedule," Mr. Orr said. The group spent the first two days with recruits at Cornwallis,N.S.

"There is a great emphasis on endurance and physical condition along with the academic side," Mr. Orr said.

Mr. Orr asked some of the recruits if they found that CAF propaganda corresponded to their everyday training experiences. The recruits replied in an "honest candid way" that the CAF was building up the good side only, but just the same they seemed to be enjoying themselves.

The group toured the telecommunication workshops in Greenwood,N.S., elaborate electronically and "mind boggling." "This is where I noticed some girls being trained for airplane mechanics," Mr. Orr said.

The group also toured an electronically sophisticated" plane, Argus, and a destroyer, HMCS Annapolis which was de-icing after.

Speaking of career possibilities, Mr.Orr said, "The CAF is an alternative which should not be overlooked."

Counselling

Drinking skills

A Niagara counsellor is still planning a "drinking skills training" program to help people recognize their alcohol level by feedback from a breathalyzer.

The counsellor, Bruce Tallon, said the program, which is still in the planning phase, should begin in January. It is designed for light and heavy drinkers, social drinkers of any age, and non-drinkers are also welcome.

Mr. Tallon said he would like to experiment with electronic games to see how alcohol affects the fine motor control of the individual, the control necessary for driving a car.

Hatha Yoga

The Hatha Yoga program, which was offered earlier in the term has been postponed until the second term of this year. Bette Ferguson, counsellor at Niagara, had eight applicants in the early part of this year but most of these people could not make the Tuesday classes because the students were on field placement.

Eye disease cured after 20 years

Robert Calladine, math instructor, should be back to teaching next term cured of an eye disease that has been bothering him for 15 to 20 years.

Mr. Calladine took time off work to have an operation for glaucoma.

To alleviate the problem, Mr. Calladine has been using drops and pills. He may not need medication at all when he recovers from the operation.

Disco at pub if free

Students at the Theatre Centre think disco should only be provided at pubs between band sets as long as it does not cost any money.

Vic Mutart, first year theatre arts division representative, told the general SAC meeting Dec. 7 that he held a meeting with theatre arts students to find out their opinion on the possiblity of SAC buying or renting euipment to provide disco between band sets. He said a majority of theatre students did not think SAC should spend money on pubs for entertainment above the cost of bands.

Supposedly dead nun, reporter's nightmare

By GUDRUN SCHATZLER

Nora is what every reporter has nightmares about.

She refuses to answer any of the five Ws—who, what, where, when and why.

Who is she? What is she doing at the Theatre Centre? Where did she come from? When did she come? Why did she choose the Theatre Centre?

Nora is the resident ghost at the Niagara College Theatre Centre. Theatre Arts students say she has been living there since the theatre opened. She is supposedly a dead nun but no one seems to know where that story was started. And Nora won't tell anyone. She just goes around slamming doors, rustling costumes and singing.

One student said Frank Norris, former program co-ordinator at the theatre centre, started the story of Nora. Mr. Norris, however, said he has no idea where the story of a dead nun came from.

NUNS TAUGHT

Rev. Louis Pelletier, priest at Eglise Sacre Coeur, the church beside the theatre centre, said he knew nothing about a ghost, let alone the ghost of a dead nun. Nuns used to teach at the old church, where the Theatre Centre is, but he doesn't know anything about a nun dying there.

He said he began hearing noises coming from the building about a year after the theatre opened. But he thinks it's just children playing

David Davies, chairman of the human development divison of Applied Arts, said he didn't know anything about where Nora came from.

It seems that Nora is keeping her identity a secret. Perhaps she prefers to remain just a rumor.

In Ukraine

Christmas still holy

By WENDY CROOKER

Boughs of holly, colored wreaths, jingling bells and mistletoe decorate the homes of people the world over at Christmas but not everyone's Christmas is celebrated in the same manner.

Christmas today is a time of buying and wrapping gifts, putting up colored lights and artificial trees, standing in mile-long line ups for Baby Tender Love and Batman dolls and, in the end, spending exorbitant amounts of money. Christmas has turned into a time of dollars and cents rather than the celebration of the birth of a special baby boy.

In the Ukraine, Christmas is more the holy time designated in the Bible, a time for families to gather together and celebrate the birth of Christ. Christmas for the Ukranian is celebrated from Jan. 7—9. Christmas day is Jan. 7 and a day of personal family celebration. On Jan. 8 and 9, friends and relatives are visited.

The meal on Christmas day is 12 courses consisting of cabbage rolls, dumplings, Kolbossa and ham. No turkey is eaten with the traditional Christmas meal. A special mixture of wheat and poppy seeds is taken before or after the meal. Wine and whiskey are optional. The 12 courses commemorate the 12 disciples. On the eve of Jan. 7, a 12-course meal is served in which there is no meat. From Dec. 4 to Christmas day no meat is consumed, preserving the body of Christ for Christmas day.

One time during December Saint Nicholas visits schools and distributes presents. No presents are given or received during Jan. 7—9.

Christmas trees are decorated with colored candies and candles which are lighted during the days of Christmas.

The family attends midnight mass Christmas eve and church on Christmas day. Prayers are said and sins confessed.

Two general traditions sometimes used are the placing of a manger under the Christmas table, signifying Christ's birth or the strewing of clean, dry hay about the kitchen and living area to give the appearance of a stable.

ERT students bring Santa

Santa and his elf came early to 21 area school children. The children from about 10 local public and separate schools were brought to the college on Dec. 1 by educational resource technician students. (ERT).

Anticipation was in the air as each ERT student brought a special pupil into the holiday-decorated ERT room. The students have been working with the children on a one-to-one basis in math and reading skills since late September.

A Christmas party was in store for the children complete with doughnuts, hot chocolate, candy canes and, of course, Santa Clause. Santa, Robbyn McNaughton, second-year ERT distributed gifts bought by each ERT student with the special children in mind. He was helped by his elf Holly Hoover, second-year ERT.

The party was combined with a field trip of the college for the children involved in the tutoring program.

The ERT students work with the children to help them develop better work and study habits. They meet with their pupil for half an hour twice a week.

Polaroid pictures of the child, his remedial teacher and Santa were taken and given to the children to take home to show their parents why their child might have been showing more interest in the schoolwork recently.

The children seem to like their special teachers and look forward to the twice-weekly visits when the emphasis is on the individual child and his or her special needs and interests, Mrs. Elvira Lucas, ERT co-ordinator said.

TO ALL NIAGARA STUDENTS AND STAFF

from Jack

Thank you for making my work at the college so agreeable, and a Merry Christmas to you all.
Jack Hutchison
Niagara Frontier Caterers

Petty pilferers

By ANGUS MIDDLEMISS

The insanity of the Christmas spending season is upon us and it seems as though everyone loses—everyone except the local shoplifters.

The fast-fingered lovers of the five-finger discount enjoy this time of year. They and the stores love crowds, but for two different reasons. The shoplifters love them because they cover their activities. Once they have the goods they move to an empty part of the store where they can stash the swag.

Some stores, like K-mart in St.Catharines, don't know their losses at Christmas, but they know there is a substantial increase. Loren Ebel, manager of St. Catharines K-Mart, said he doesn't know his losses but his security staff has had an increase in the number of people picked up for pocketing goods.

He said there are few professionals but the major offenders are young people. The largest number of shoplifters are teenage girls and most of the goods they take are from jewelry and cosmetics departments, he said.

The store does not discriminate against shoplifters he said. Everyone of them is charged. When juveniles are caught, they are turned over to the police and the youth bureau. Offenders over 16 are charged with either theft of more than $200 or theft of less than $200. All offenders are warned that if they are caught in the store again they will be charged with petty trespassing.

Mr. Ebel said there is a noted increase in shoplifters being caught during the Christmas rush, from one or two a week being apprehended to six or eight now.

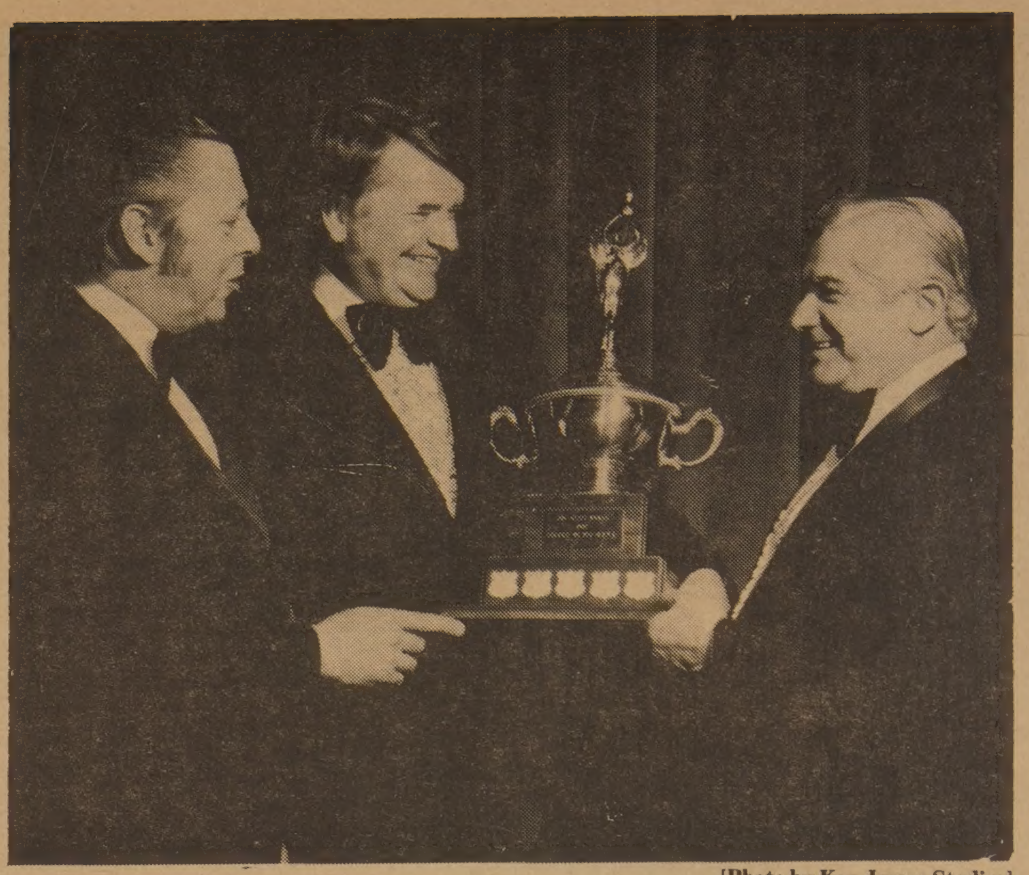
Mrs. Edna James, a K-Mart security investigator, has been a floorwalker for about six months and has had many experiences with shoplifters. She remembers one y oung per son came into the store and stole a pair of shoes. The youth had $20 his mother had given him to buy the shoes, but he took them so he could keep the money.

Mrs. James said the youths come up with numerous excuses, such as the one who stole five large size chocolate bars and said, "I was hungry."

Mr. Ebel said it's hard to tell how much is taken and he doesn't know if the recovery rate is more or less than one per cent. He said his store loses about $25,000 per year in a variety of ways; some stores lose about $100,000.

He said there are bigger problems this time of year than people palming things. The biggest one is NSF cheques. There are two ways of dealing with NSF cheques, he said. One way is, when the cheque comes back, to call the person. If he or she won't come to pay for the items then the person will not be allowed to cash cheques there again. If the cheque has been drawn on a closed account, or on another account, the matter is immediately turned over to the police.

People's larceny shows through when it comes to trying to get away with paying less than the actual price. He said some people try to switch tags but they aren't very successful because the cashiers look at the department numbers on the tags and the code number that appears on the item.



[Photo by Ken James Studios]

Misty Awards

Dave Hagarty [left], a tourism instructor at Niagara College, aids Niagara Falls Mayor, George Bukator in presenting the Misty Award to Art White [centre] of Niagara Falls. The tenth annual Misty Award presentations were held on Nov. 26, at the Sheraton Brock Hotel in Niagara Falls. Mr. Hagarty, founder of the awards, was also nominated for an award for special service to the Niagara Falls Resort and Tourist Association.

The toys may have changed, but the spirit is still the same

By NELLE OOSTEROM and PHIL WILSON

If Santa Claus hasn't been watching television lately, he's in trouble. It seems instead of traditional sleds and toboggans and skates, children today prefer space toys.

Seven-year-old Brian Edward Thomson was lying on the floor trying to sneak a peek inside the Park-a-Kid theatre. He said he wanted the Six-Million Dollar Man for Christmas. The real meaning of the season was not lost on him, however.

BRIAN EDWARD THOMPSON

"We go to Santa Claus in Sunday school," Brian Edward said.

One little boy may be in trouble this year. He clammed up even when his mother absolutely assured him we were Santa's helpers. He knew what he wanted but he wasn't telling and gave his mother a swift kick to prove it.

Three junior members of the Sawyer family, aged five to 11, said they wanted "hockey stuff", "clothes or something" and"Hush Little Baby" under their tree. Christmas to them was Santa Claus and a nativity scene.

Two youths aged 10 and 11, were found at the arms counter.. oops—the toy gun section of K-Mart. David Hannah confessed that he wanted Santa Claus to give him a BB gun while his companion, Eric Ripper, wanted a Telstar satellite.

Christmas means toys and toys mean Space 1999 to seven-year-old Mark, who refused to give his last name.

Women's Liberation was lost on little girls who insisted on asking for dolls. Not one boy wanted a doll.

Christmas, even in this electronic age, still seems to hold the same magic for children. None seemed apathetic or cynical. The spirit of Christmas is still very real to them—and probably always will be.

JOHN SAWYER

$7,235.41 transferred

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) passed a motion to make a budget transfer of $7,235.41 from the contingency fund to the office equipment fund to cover the cost of duplicating equipment purchased by SAC.

At the closed board of directors meeting Dec. 7, Debbie Cole, SAC vice-president of finance, reported that $7,003.65 of the $8,000 budget for clubs had been allocated and that the satellite budget of $7,000 had been exceeded by $577.

At a closed meeting Nov. 25, the board of directors awarded two satellite budgets and two club budgets.

Theatre Arts was allocated $877 for their 1976/77 budget and the Horticulture School was granted $900.

The Horticulture Club was awarded $575 for projects. Money received for the sale of merchandise by Horticulture Club Enterprises will be returned to SAC since the money received by the club is considered an investment for this purpose.

The IEEE Club was allocated $1,500 for 1976/77 expenses.

At the same meeting the board of directors decided to reimburse satellite board members for their gas expenses to attend meetings if they show receipts.

IEEE news

Membership

Renew your IEEE membership or become a new member and be eligible to win a TI 1600 calculaotor. A draw for the c alculator will be the final event in the IEEE membership drive which began this week. It will end in late January.

Nanticoke trip

A trip to Nanticoke scheduled by the IEEE for Dec. 2 was cancelled and will be re-scheduled in January. All money collected for the trip will be returned this week.

VOM meters

The supply committee of the IEEE is working with IEEE members at McMaster University and Mohawk College to buy VOM meters in bulk. They hope to be able to supply them to engineering students at lower than retail costs.

Tradition varied by imagination

The difference between a Thanksgiving and Christmas feast often comes down to the traditional desserts—pumpkin or mincemeat.

There are ways to make sure the Christmas dinner doesn't appear to be a repeat performance of an earlier holiday meal.

Turkey lovers can vary the meal by tossing their traditional stuffing recipe to give the family a surprise when they open the bird.

A mixture of apples, raisins, bread crumbs and spices sweetens the main course with an apple pudding type of stuffing. Chestnuts, pecans, bread and spices spiked with a packet of instant onion soup mix liven up the bird with a nutty touch. More mature tastes might favor ground sausage, onions, celery, bread and spices that add substance to the stuffing itself.

LARGE HAM

To vary the traditional alterntive to turkey, a large ham can be stuffed, instead of glazed, with stuffing on the side. The ham juices add a sweeter, different flavor.

Throwing a few pounds of dried fruits, raisins, nuts and cherries into an old date bread recipe makes a rich, dark fruitcake both different and delicious. No need to increase the batter, the fruit makes up for it.

A quart of eggnog, a little gelatin and a couple pinches of nutmeg make a pie in the Christmas tradition that defies the repetition of fruit and nuts found in mincemeat.

Shortbread cookies are still making it, but their flavor is more appealing to the older set. Children may favor something chewier, like little balls made by adding mincemeat to a gingerbread recipe.

Coupling tradition with imagination is the key to providing a Christmas dinner that won't be found on anyone else's table. Old favorite recipes can be made seasonal by a little addition and subtraction with the holiday in mind.

Response improved

Between 40 and 50 Mack Centre students attended a wine and cheese party sponsored by the Mack activity committee Dec. 6. Faculty and staff also attended.

Diane Shepherd, Mack activity committee chairperson, said, "Staff response has improved considerably since our last event." The last event held by the activity committee was a volleyball game between staff and students.

Only 65 advance tickets were sold and the committee was still not breaking even, Diane said. Had there been a surplus the funds would have been saved and used for future activities.

Niagara News Classified Ads Will Sell It For You

Not just another ho hum gift the Tame Hole is selling well

By DENNY BUNYAN

Dad can expect another pair of socks to add to his collection, while Mum acquires yet another bottle of her favorite cologne. Still they smile and say "Thank-you, it's just what I wanted," then file it in the back of the closet with all the other ho hum gifts of years gone by.

This Christmas why not stretch your imagination to include the variety of absurd and unusual gifts available in stores throughout the peninsula.

How about a toothpick, for example? Nothing unusual about that you say. Not so! This toothpick is 14 carat solid gold and sells for $125. It is available at Birks jewellers in St. Catharines, but manager David Warren confesses, "We don't sell very many."

One item disappearing quickly from the shelves at Birks is the Frustration Bag. Shaped like a small animal, it seems to have just one marketable feature—its ability to be thrown at an adversary without causing bodily harm. It sells for $10.50.

A stuffed animal is a welcome addition to any child's toy chest, but not when it stands five feet tall.

Coy Brothers Hardware, St. Catharines, has one such beast on display in its window. Made by the Steiff Toy Company, Germany, it is a life size donkey selling for $500.

For those whose budgets won't stretch quite that far, all is not lost. This year's answer to the Pet Rock has arrived: The Tame Hole.

Advertised as "The latest gag joke," the hole comes in a small brown jar, along with a booklet containing instructions for exercising, training and cleaning your Tame Hole. It also advises the owner what to do should the hole pass away.

Some people have been callous enough to flush a deceased Tame Hole down the toilet. The manufacturer suggests a decent burial, perhaps in a sardine can at the end of the garden.

Admittedly, the "hole" idea sounds a little fishy, but salesperson Marion Holmes says they are selling very well.

A road patrol helmet equipped with siren and flashing light would seem the ideal gift for young cyclists right? Wrong. Bill Anderson, manager of Radio Shack, Pen Centre, says he has sold more than 50 of them to policemen who give them to fellow officers as a joke.

So steer away from the mundane this holiday season, and buy a gift that will be treasured forever. Try to imagine the look of delight on Mother's face as she unwraps her Russian samovar.

"Why thank you, it's just what I always wanted; what is it?"

Been feeling heavy lately? Try these recipes for size

Evening fashions for this winter require a thicker wallet and a thinner wastline. One way to wear a feminine, form-fitting gown or tapered suit jacket throughout the festive season is to plan your meals, dinner parties and snacks nutritionally.

Or if you must indulge, take advantage of winter sports activities and burn off those extra calories. A 20-minute brisk walk will burn off 104 calories. One hour of cross-country skiing will rid you of 594 extra calories.

Holiday foods are tempting but calorie-ridden. They do come only once a year, however, and you intend to enjoy them. You can compensate for the extra calories by cutting down on everyday indulgences.

Extra cream and sugar in your coffee adds 50 calories, an additional tablespoon of butter or margarine has 100 calories, 10 potato chips contain 115 calories and 12 ounces of beer have 150 calories. Cutting down on these extras would eliminate 415 calories saved will be found in one piece of mincemeat pie and can be burned off by a 1½-hour hike.

Many snack foods are worth very little nutritionally and are laden with calories. Popcorn, potato chips and candy snacks can be refused politely at parties you attend. There are substitutes you can serve at your own gatherings.

The Niagara Regional Health Unit has some suggestions. Try raw vegetables and a yogurt or pineapple-cheese dip instead of potato chips and a sour cream dip.

Pineapple-Cheese Dip

Combine ½ cup two per cent cottage cheese with ¼ cup pineapple juice. Beat until smooth or whirl together in a blender. Serve chiled.

Try carrot sticks, cauliflower florets, celery sticks, turnip wedges or cucumber slices with this low calorie dip.

Instead of offering your guests candy or chocolates, the health unit suggests Party Nibblers.

Party Nibblers

¼ cup margarine
1 tablespoon worcestershire sauce
1 package (8 ounces) salted peanuts
1 can (3 ounces) Chinese noodles
3 cups assorted unsweetened bite-size cereals
1 teaspoon-salt
1 teaspoon paprika

Melt margarine in a large pan over a low flame. Remove from heat and stir in worcestershire sauce, peanuts, noodles, cereals. Sprinkle with paprika and salt and mix well. Spread on a pan and bake in a 300-degree oven for ½ hour, stirring periodically. Store in a sealed container. Yield: 6 cups.

Of course, you are going to partake of the foods that are part of your Christmas celebration, but try just a little of everything. After all, you know you'll be eating holiday left-overs for the next few days anyway.

When the holiday meal is over, don't settle back and watch "White Christmas" for the 10th time. Make use of that new toboggan or skiing equipment or take a walk in those new boots. Get out and enjoy the beauty of the Christmas season and at the same time, rid yourself of those extra calories.

One hundred extra calories burned daily means 10 to 12 pounds you can lose in a year without really trying. This means next year you can treat yourself to a new holiday fashion in a smaller size.

Being Santa Claus not all ho ho hos

By SYLVIA BAAGO

Entering the wrong house at 3.30 a.m to deliver a bag full of presents and falling down flights of stairs are just some of the hazards facing potential impersonators of Santa Claus, according to a man who has had 18 years of experience at the job.

Wesley Pierce, 33, of 124 Bell St., Port Colborne, said in a recent interview he didn't recommend the job of playing Santa to anyone without a good sense of humor.

On one occasion he was dressed up in his red suit driving to a Christmas party, when some children spied their favorite toy-maker and yelled, "Hi Santa!" As he turned his head around to smile and wave at them, he said, his car collided with the rear-end of the car in front of him that had stopped for a red light. Pierce's door flew open and there was Santa rolling end over end down the street!

NOT SANTA

The horrified children came running and the embarrassed Pierce said he had to nurse his injured pride and assure the kiddies that Santa was O.K. Even Santa couldn't escape the long arms of the law, however, and he was fined $15 for following too close. At his trial, Pierce said his lawyer advised the judge, "I might add, Your Honor, at the time of the accident Mr. Pierce was dressed up as Santa Claus." The judge's amusement, Pierce said, might have had something to do with his fairly light fine.

Pierce's long, varied career as Santa started at the request of his boss when he worked as a clerk in a grocery store. Although he was only 16 at the time, he said his first assignment was simple. All he was required to do was to stand outside the store and ring a bell to lure customers inside. Subsequently, an aquaintance of his who played Santa at the Nickel Plant Christmas parties decided to retire and sold Pierce his Santa suit for $20 on the condition he never gave it back. That should have been a warning to Pierce, but, undaunted, he carried on. Pierce was officially launched on his long career.

NOT ALWAYS HAPPY

He said he enjoys being Santa most of the time, but sometimes his duties have been rather unhappy . Occasionally, parents have asked him to make a pre-Christmas visit to their house to tell their children that he wouldn't be making his annual visit.

In situations like this, he tells the children that Santa doesn't have enough toys to go around, and he is able only to deliver presnts to the really poor boys and girls. For the most part, he said, the children accept his explanation readily, and tell him they are well taken care of, anyway, and they would rather have him deliver toys to the poor children.

Sometimes it is Santa's turn to be on the receiving end of presents. Three years ago on Christmas Day Pierce's attractive wife Iris presented him with that most precious of all gifts, a baby boy whom they christened Christopher. The Pierce's have one other son, Tommy, 10, who is a whiz at repairing old radios, his proud father said.

The popular image of Mrs. Claus is of a grey-haired matron, but Mrs. Pierce is a slim, attractive brunette, who says that being married to Santa isn't all fun. She is kept busy making him new suits and this year she had to replace the sack she had spent hours making last year, since it was stolen from the front seat of his car. Even Santa isn't safe from crime!

Their wedding anniversary falls during the busy Christmas season, and she said they haven't managed to celebrate very many of them. However, she said, she gets even with him sometimes by leaving a straight pin stuck somewhere in his suit. Ouch, that hurts!

Pierce said his own children readily accept his explanation that he is the real Santa's helper. He enjoys spreading Christmas cheer in the guise of the jolly old gentleman, because', he said, "I have always thought it is one of the little dreams children have left before facing the reality of the cruel world."

Need pals at Xmas

By FRANCIS SKRZESZEWSKI

The season to be jolly can be a time of despair for many people.

Increased numbers of parties and a rise in the numbers of calls received by suicide prevention centres, during the Christmas season, are both manifestations of a common human need—dependency.

Dependency, says Wellyard Gaylin, a psychiatrist writing for Psychology Today, is a defence mechanism people employ when facing shattered expectations.

For some reason, perhaps tradition, people expect more interaction and warmth around Christmas. The term "Christmas party" connotes visions of something unique; something different than an ordinary gathering.

Expectations that are unattainable can cause frustration. An article inToday's Health describes a family gathered for Christmas after a year's separation. Instead of a jovial reunion, old gripes are brought out and most of the family feels relief when the affair has finished.

Twenty Niagara College students were asked to describe their attitudes towards Christmas. All but one said they were favorably disposed because they enjoyed the parties and family gatherings. Should these students find, for some reason, they would not be going to any social affairs, then frustration could result.

Fee rise $75

Tuition fees will increase $75 for community college students and $100 for university students for 1977-78, Harry Parrott, minister of colleges and universities, announced.

Eugenie translates love into gifts

By ANNITA NEWELL

The Christmas spirit is alive and well and living in Cordova Mines. It lives in the mind and heart of a lady named Eugenie.

Cordova Mines is a tiny crossroads in the back country of Eastern Ontario, where Eugenie and her husband own a little snack bar and general store with living quarters in the back. It is a humble home which radiates a love and warmth uncommon in this cool sophisticated world of polished homes and tinsel Christmas celebration. Eugenie has been planning, preserving, knitting, sewing and collecting for 12 months.

This year 45 people will receive gifts with a small legacy of love tucked into each. Her 19 grandchildren are her very favorite delight, and the affection is especially obvious in their packages. Every one will contain someting uniquely suited to the child receiving it, usually in favorite colors.

The seven youngest granddaughters will receive a special treasure this year. Seven patchwork quilts are ready—done in the favorite color of each girl. Along with these are seven booklets written and illustrated in Eugenie's hand, giving a short history of the material used for the patches.

One page tells of an embroidered flower in the centre of each quilt, from a cushion she and her mother made when Eugenie was a little girl herself. Imagine the delight of a small girl cuddled under a quilt made of family memories.

The grandsons will also have quilts made of many denim patches. Eugenie has been collecting worn-out jeans from family and friends for two years to gather enough denim for nine patchwork quilts.

Her 10 children and their mates all win individual attention in her selection of gifts. A casual mention in June that a daughter would like to try embroidery some day brings a complete kit with apron ready to start, six months later for Christmas. The year of the craze for moustaches among the sons and sons-in-law brought old-fashioned moustache mugs for each (no one knew what they were at first).

When her children had all been raised, decorating the tree didn't seem the same until a grown son bought *her* a doll one year. That same doll still sits under the tree each year, wearing a new hand-knitted outfit. A 35-year-old Santa doll shares the space—he will wear a new red suit this year, too. Her older children can still pick out decorations they trimmed the tree with when they were kids. Some have been on the tree every year since Eugenie's marriage.

If it is at all possible to translate love into material objects, her Christmas spirit of giving comes close to doing just that. Her gifts will never be stacked by the hundreds in a discount store, for they are singular treasures, priceless to those who receive them—her family and friends.

$$$ $hortage $tifle$ $pending

Earlier payment of registration fees has left many Niagara students wondering where they will find the money to celebrate Christmas this year.

Instead of being able to raise money for college by working through the Christmas holiday, students had to come up with the funds before the break. Many students spent their Christmas savings on their education.

Several students said this was the financially worst Christmas they could remember.

Joan Heckman, first year fashion arts, said she will only have about $50 to buy gifts for eight people. She said she is spending the interest earned on a savings bond this year because she did not have a job during the term. The most expensive gift she will be able to buy will cost about $10.

Stew Bruinsma, first year social services, said this Christmas is rougher financially than past ones because he is not working this year. He said he will be spending about $50 of his savings to buy gifts. Stew's family uses a name-draw system for gift-buying within the family and he is particularly grateful this year not to be faced with a list of relatives expecting something.

There are exceptions to the tight money situation even among students, however.

Dan Ciuffetelli, first year retail management, said he will be spending about $230 on seven people this year. He has some savings from a summer job and some from his $70-a-week allowance.

Kikuyu Christmas

By IRENE BRENNER

What does Christmas mean to you?

That's when I get my best tan," said Margaret (Margie) J. MacKenzie, a first year Early Childhood Education Student.

Margie remembers when she lived in Kijabe, Kenya. Her parents are Independent Baptist missionaries living in Kijabe.

Margaret was born to Don and Doris MacKenzie in Shinyanga, Tanzania, on the shores of Lake Victoria, in 1956. She lived there for six years. She came to Canada when she was two years old for one year and went back until she was seven years old. She attended her first grade of school in Canada and then went back to Africa again. This second time she lived in Kijabe, Kenya for 11 years.

HER HOME

Margie is now 20 and home will always be Africa for her:

Christmas is in the middle of the dry season, the hottest time of the year. This explains Margie's earlier remark. There is no rain and, of course, no snow. Margie said she never missed the snow at Christmas and, if there were none this year, she still wouldn't miss it. Living in Canada during the winter has not impressed Margie during the past two years.

"We celebrate Christmas the same as you."

Margie, her two brothers and her parents exchange gifts which are put under the tree on Christmas eve. They have stockings which can only be looked into on Christmas morning. There are plenty of trees and so each family cuts its own.

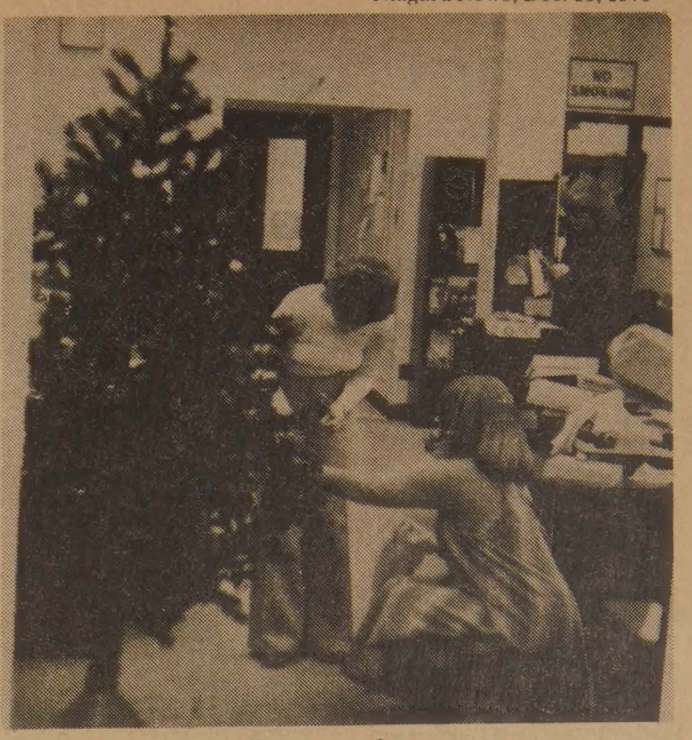
Santa Claus is "no big deal," Margie said. She remembers Santa as always being her dad. "He was there, but he wasn't important," Margie said.

KIKUYU TRIBE

Margie explained the meaning of Christmas to the Kikuyu tribe. She said they do not give presents. They sometimes give food to those who need it. They do not understand why many gifts are given, because they believe gifts take away from the spiritual Christ. The Kikuyu tribe sing Christmas carols at homes on Christmas eve and are sometimes rewarded with candies.

On Christmas day, the Kikuyu go to church and stay at the morning-long service for hours, coming and going when they please.they, too, have a big feast in the afternoon and then go to a service in the evening. At Christmas they give an extra offering to the church.

To the Kikuyu, to Margie and to us, Christmas is Christs' birthday. But-on the commercial side of Christmas-who's to say which is best: a nice white snow or a dark brown tan?



Mackenzie tree

The Mackenzie building has its own decorated Christmas tree for the first time this year. Irene Hanlin, program co-ordinator of typing, brought in an artificial Christmas tree on Dec. 7. Ann Perenack, typing instructor, and Pat Clay, college secretary, headed the decorating operations. "It will become a yearly tradition," Miss Perenack said. "All presents will be welcome." (Photo by Kreamer)

Welland pixies lose their eyes

Christmas trees, cathedral candles and pixies comprise the designs for Welland's Christmas lighting.

Forty-thousand dollars to $50,000 has been spent on these lights since 1967, Fred Turner, city treasurer, said in an interview. The lights are "refurbishes" each year: "The pixies lose their eyes."

This year, about $1,500 was spent repairing the lights, Mr. Turner said.

The present designs, first used in 1967, took the place of the strings of colored bulbs that formerly decorated the downtown area.

The Welland Centennial Committee and the downtown merchants, in co-operation with city council, inaugurated the new lights, Gus Marcello, deputy city engineer, said.

The cost of the electricity used by the lights this season cannot be determined until they are taken down in Jan.1, Owen Jenkins, Welland Hydro treasurer, said. Last year, the cost to the city for 38 days was $251.

'I want it, I love it!' — these gifts will impress

By RIC DOLPHIN

Still at a loss as to what you are going to give that special, special person? Well, if you really want to make him or her happy and money is no concern, hold on to your pocketbook as we drift through a land of baubles and sparklies all designed to delight.

Our first stop is the jeweller's.

Diamonds are a girl's best friend, so they say. You'd better make sure the girl is at least your very best, fellers, before buying her even a one carat piece of this brand of ice.

Paul Smith, manager of Mappin's Jewellers, Welland, has one such rock in his establishment. Set, all by its lonesome, on a white gold ring, this little baby sells for the average price of a one carat diamond ring: $3,500.

What is a carat? A carat is 100 points (100°) and points are a measure of weight. The more carats, the happier your little bunny is going to be. This particular setting was the most expensive Paul had in his store so as to prevent "security problems."

Ernest Penner Inc., a St. Catharines jeweller boasts its own gemologist, Ernest himself.

EXCLUSIVE, EXPENSIVE

"All our stuff is exclusive and expensive," Mrs. Hazel Thompson, salesperson, declares in an English accent.

She produces a pink topaz ring. Surrounded by diamonds, it sparkles defiantly—the topaz is usually gold. It is a rarity, as are many of the items displayed in this store. How much? $4,000.

Mr. Penner arrives and goes to his safe. He pulls out about a two carat diamond. It hasn't found itself a setting yet—most of Penner's creations are made to customer specifications. The stone flashes from the tweezers holding it, reflecting in its 58 facets the pastel shades of the quietly opulent room and the vulgar, gaping visages of the insignificant would-be journalists witnessing its $10,000 glory.

For the girl on a limited income who can't afford such extravagance for her beau, Penner's offers a lovely set of cufflinks. Gold, with a Lapis Lazuli and tiger-eye inlay, they cost a mere $500. Or, she might break down and order him an Omega Constellation wristwatch in 18 carat gold for about $7,000. It would be a unique gift. Girls: Paul of Mappins says no one has ever paid this much ever for a watch in Canada.

FUR COAT

To complement the chosen trinket, a fur coat would be perfect.

Henry's Furs, St. Catharines, can warm your lady's frigid frame with a $3,000 black mink coat. Henry Jouppien custom makes all of the coats so there will be no worry of an ill fit.

The young lady who accompanied me to this establishment was allowed to pirouette in a knee-length Canadian red fox ($1,500). "I want it! I love it!" she said. "I'm hungry. Let's go to MacDonalds and eat," I said.

But Henry insisted *I* try on a coat. He brought out a long furry racoon monster and I crept within its embrace. "I want it! I love it!" I insisted as images of a winter's ride in a Stutz Bearcat raced through my head. Actually the coat was a bargain: it had been marked down to $1,095 from $1,395.

Perhaps your chosen cherub is an "audiophile" (a stereo freak). If this is the case, Anderson Sound, St. Catharines, has an amusing little system for him or her.

ROLLS OF STEREO

The pre-amplifier, the power amplifier and the tuner are by McIntosh. Termed "the Rolls-Royce of the stereo industry" by employee William Biletchi, these components offer 200 watts RMS per channel minimum and that'll blow the roof off you Tudor mansion.

To take all this roar, a couple of speakers by JBL will be needed at $1,300 each (with a lifetime warranty, of course). A reel-to-reel tape deck by Tandberg would record those precious moments: $1,750. How precious are your moments? And to spin the platters, a Harman Kardon turntable that has zero tracking error because it tracks the record the way the record was cut: the tone arm moves the cartridge across the disc in a direct co-relation to the grooves—it's complicated, but the turntable will do the thinking for you. It costs $525 without the cartridge. Mr. Biletchi recommends that the cartridge not cost less than $150; it could cost $300.

First year journalism student Colleen Pegg languishes in a deep warm fur while Henry Jouppien, owner of Henry's Furs, St. Catharines, adjusts the fit. Expensive gifts this Christmas can include the Canadian red fox coat which Colleen wears (valued at $1500). Or how about a $17,000 De Tomaso Pantera?

(Photo by Dolphin)

To round out this system, an equalizer (a glorified bass and treble control that tunes the speakers to the room) by Sound Craftsman can be added for $300. Total cost? Well over $10,000.

NEEDS SPECIALIST

Naturally, a computer specialist will have to be hired to operate this package—or at least one of Zappa's sound engineers.

Does a used car sound more appealing to your bank account?

Penn Auto Sales has a gem. It sits majestic at its resting place on St. Paul St., St. Catharines. This sexy beast is a mid-engined De Tomaso Pantera.

A salesman, simply known as "Fritz", said the Tomaso will top 180 m.p.h.. It, or should I say "Her Majesty", has a sleek Italian bod, a "hopped up" V-8 Ford Cleveland GT engine, a five-speed gear box, AM/FM stereo, air-conditioning and power windows. The Michlin radial tires cost $135 each and the total price of this automobile is only $17,000.

With your shopping behind you, now is the time for a well-earned gift. A mickey shouldsuffice. The Liquor Store is offering a rather tasty bottle of glug this season—12 oz. of Napoleon Cognac,$59.25. Cheers!